

The New Crusades – Chapter 1

Judaism's High Holy Days start with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and conclude 10 days later with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and the religion's holiest day.

On September 15, 2006, in the venue of a scholarly dissertation on Faith and Reason in Bavaria, the ecumenically sensitive Pope Benedict XVI quoted Byzantine emperor Manuel II as saying to a Persian cleric in 1391, *Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.*

It was, as some later observed, the defining moment when The New Crusades began. A traditional numbering scheme for the crusades gives us nine during the 11th to 13th centuries, as well as other smaller crusades that are mostly contemporaneous and unnumbered. There were frequent "minor" crusades throughout this period, not only in Palestine, but also in the Iberian Peninsula and central Europe, against not only Muslims, but also Christian heretics and personal enemies of the Papacy or other powerful monarchs. Such "crusades" continued into the 16th century, until the Renaissance and Reformation when the political and religious climate of Europe was significantly different than that of the Middle Ages.

In the world of Islam, it was called The Final Jihad. It was different than all of the previous Crusades, if it was fought on the enemy's soil, not in Muslim lands. Around the time of the Pope's statement, the news was focused on America's Hiroshima. That talk wasn't new, read this:

August 9, 2005

The Fuses Are Lit: America's Hiroshima!

Don Boys, Ph.D.

Hitler ordered his general, Dietrich von Choltitz, to blow up and burn Paris since the city was about to fall to Allied forces that were advancing rapidly in the suburbs. However, as the German general wrestled with his conscience, Hitler screamed into the general's abandoned phone, "Is Paris burning? Is Paris burning?" No, Paris did not burn.

Another maniac is calling from a cave in Afghanistan, "Is America burning? Is America burning?" That man is Osama bin Laden, a Muslim maniac with a mission. Muslim terrorists have plans to destroy America. The humiliated Russians drove their tanks out of Afghanistan in 1989, and within two years, the Soviet Empire was history! That historic success in humiliating the Soviet Empire encouraged Muslim terrorists to destroy America, the "Great Satan".

Muslim terrorists have deployed nuclear weapons into the US and are ready to explode them any day, some say within 30 days! As many as ten major US cities could be in rubble and flames any day with a Muslim terrorist shouting into a cell phone: "Yes, America is burning. America is burning."

In recent weeks Washington has been abuzz about Osama bin Laden's "American Hiroshima," a plan whereby at least seven nuclear bombs were carried across the Mexican-US border by Central American street-gang members. Those "suitcase" bombs are now hidden in the US and when detonated will kill at least four million Americans and millions more will die of radiation exposure. Uncle bin wants two million of those deaths to be US children! Ah, yes, a peaceful religion.

As reported by Joseph Farah in the intelligence report G2 Bulletin, "top US government officials are contemplating what they consider to be an inevitable and much bigger assault on America – one likely to kill millions, destroy the economy and fundamentally alter the course of history." This plan was in the works years before the September 11 attack!

Will the terrorists explode many bombs simultaneously in various major cities or maybe hit three or four cities, then threaten to explode other bombs unless the American government surrenders to Islam and accepts Islamic rule? If Americans see a major city in rubble with thousands of charred bodies lying in the streets, would there be desires for surrender or revenge? I suggest that every Muslim in America would have a target on his back and some Americans would consider any Middle Eastern person as fair game to be taken out.

I suggest that US politicians get serious about terror today and be honest about what is ahead of us. They should be telling us to prepare for disaster: food, water, bomb shelters, escape routes, etc. Peaceful Muslims must also get serious today, and report known terrorists in their circles, vigorously condemn the killers, and wave the American flag as they sing, "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy." But frankly, it is too late to close the barn door since the horses are galloping down the road. We have been soft rather than sensible; weak rather than wise; mild rather than militant; and relaxed rather than resolute. When the bombs explode, all bets are off. A reign of terror may ensue, and the America we know will be gone forever.

Talk show hosts have asked me if my message causes people to panic, and I always reply that I am trying to make people be awake and aware without being alarmed. However, at this time in the crisis, maybe it is time to be alarmed! No, not irresponsible, out of control panic. Just the everyday kind of alarm that makes your blood run hot, your adrenaline flow, your hands sweat profusely and your mouth as dry as an oil well I invested in.

In a few days or weeks, everyone who has not prepared for disaster will panic. I would like for you to realize that you may have already waited too long to properly prepare, and if you wait much longer, it will be too late to buy gold, guns, and groceries. Every-

one will rush for the doors at the same time, and you and your family will be crushed. The name of the game will be survival, only survival. Forget the job since it will be gone. Your Social Security or pension check? Don't count on it. Protection from local authorities? Probably not. You will be on your own.

If you awaken tomorrow morning and discover that five or six major US cities have been bombed and millions are dead with millions more exposed to radiation, you will understand that you have witnessed the demise of a once-great nation. Those with an understanding of history will also realize that we are for sure in a Hundred Years' War between Muslims and the rest of the world. Muslims have known this for decades.

If US officials are wrong and there is no danger from terrorists and Islam is a peaceful religion hijacked by a few terrorists then breathe a sigh of relief, thank God for His mercy and continue with your life. However, if you are wrong (and US officials are right), you and your family will be cold, hungry, and dependent on others to provide for your basic needs. Is it wise to take such an unnecessary risk?

Some people do not want to recognize the problem because they are dreamers, others are delusional, and still others are deniers! The dreamer does not want his life to be totally upset (who does?), so he blithely walks through life without looking at reality. Dreamers are so much happier in their dream world. After all, in dreamland they don't have any problems, don't have to make difficult decisions, and are always feel warm and fuzzy. There is no confrontation, conflict, or combat. So why wake up? I would like this message to be a fire bell in the night to awaken them from their slumber.

The delusional cannot be helped. They will not even consider the possibility that the world is going to undergo an incredible change very soon. They think by not wanting something to happen, it will not happen. They are wrong. Furthermore, hand wringing won't do any good either!

Then there are the deniers. These people have made up their minds that God would never permit America to go down. We are so special, so strong, and so supreme. So stupid.

So I have some practical suggestions for the approaching disaster. The power may be off for long periods of time so you may not have lights, heat, or refrigeration. Water may not be pumped into your home, and phones may not work, even cell phones since the towers may be destroyed. Elevators may not work; same with trains, subways, and traffic lights. Banks will fold as will insurance companies and major corporations. Don't count on your job being there or your investments, even guaranteed investments. When governments teeter on the edge of collapse, there are no guarantees. Well, you get the idea that you won't have a nice day!

While no one on the face of the earth can say for sure how bad it is going to be, it will be bad, and Proverbs tells us that the prudent man looks ahead, sees the danger, and plans for it. The fool goes on and must suffer for his folly. So pray and hope for the best

and prepare for the worst. After all, you don't have to believe the worst is going to happen to prepare for it! Your fire insurance policy is an example of that. You don't really expect a fire but you have insurance, don't you?

I don't want to be melodramatic but knowing that politicians have a tendency to over-react I see ominous days ahead. If our cities are in flames, jobs are gone, people are hungry, hospitals are full, funeral homes are open 24 hours, banks are closed, major corporations are bankrupt, government checks are no longer being mailed, citizens are angry, hungry, and scared then we can expect officials to continue to do stupid things, only quicker. Martial law may be the norm in disaster areas. We have never heard the chilling march of highly polished jackboots on deserted and darken streets; however, the Constitution may be put in a velvet box for the duration, and America may only be a goose-step away from goon squads.

You are not responsible for what government does but you are responsible for what you do. Moreover, you have control over your money. Make decisions today based upon what officials tell us will happen tomorrow. When cities are burning everyone will try to cash in his chips, and you will have to stand in line, a very long line. When everyone wants out of the market at the same time, most people are crushed. That is what happens when a crowd of people runs for the exit at the same time. Only the first few usually make it without being crushed in the stampede, and that stampede will be worldwide. If the US market plummets with the destruction of our major cities then the tsunami will swamp the markets of the world. That means worldwide depression.

Young stockbrokers who have never worked at any other job tell you that the market is not vulnerable as it was in the early 1930s. "We now have government controls in place. Don't worry. Keep investing. The old rule has been repealed: what goes up does not have to come down. Just make out your check to the XYZ Investing Co. and we'll take care of you." The average investment counsel is like a small boy standing waist deep in gasoline flicking a cigarette lighter. He does not know how volatile the world markets are and how they respond to US markets.

A good rule to follow concerning getting out of the stock market is that it is better to be a year early than a day late. Don't be greedy. Take your profits and run. Pay off your house and car and purchase "things" that will be useful such as tools, guns, ammunition, food, etc. Think of what you might need if society closes down. You should purchase non-electric tools and make sure they are quality goods since they may have to last.

You should start putting aside small bills as well as quarters for the crash. While no one knows how long the money will be good, all societies must have a medium of exchange. US money will probably be good but do not count on ATMs, banks, or credit cards.

Look for other ways to do things. Be innovative and inventive. Get rid of unimportant and nonessentials from your life. Have a massive yard sale and sell things you have not used in years. Keep in mind those things that could be used for barter, but non-

essentials will not have much demand. Now is the time to sell your baseball cards, beanie babies, cabbage patch dolls, and other collectibles.

The waters may be calm today but that does not mean there are no crocodiles in the water! Get out of the water now and prepare for a difficult tomorrow! The fuse is burning and the clock is ticking!

If America's cities are destroyed by Muslim terrorists, then it could be very ugly for a few months (or years) and you should prepare for the worst. Your children should be aware of the possibilities but get them ready without scaring them to death! After all, there is no doubt that their lives will change forever. Don't let this hit them in the face tomorrow morning. Carefully get them ready. Let them know that this disaster is no surprise to God. God did not look down recently and say, "Oops." He has watched this coming on for many years and is permitting man to put himself in a "fine mess."

Teach the children that they will have to assume more responsibilities around the house. (You should have been training them from earliest days.) Discuss some of the things they can do to help in surviving and thriving after such an attack on the American "Empire." Let them know that children all over the world will have to grow up a little quicker than in the past. They should learn to take care of their own rooms, clean out the garage so you can store some food there; learn to care for the garden, to butcher rabbits, turkeys and clean fish. Let them know that they are an important part of the family unit. (Again, I hope they already know that.)

Teach them to respect, understand, and care for guns. They should know how to hunt and clean game before they need to do so for survival. Children are children, so plan for long nights without much to do. Purchase books, games, puzzles, and videos (although televisions and VCRs may not work in some areas, so wean them away from television now). Get involved in some of their games and read to the very young.

Purchase school materials for them while they are still available. The public school system and many Christian schools will probably fold in some disaster areas. Prepare for such possibilities, and be sure to purchase Teacher's Editions or answer keys.

When hard times come, do not wear gold jewelry or expensive clothes or drive large cars. Such people will be targets in an age of envy (generated by non-thinking liberals for fifty years). Even decent people will be jealous of your apparent "good fortune." Translation: you prepared and they did not!

Go to discount stores today, yes today, and purchase toilet paper, sugar, salt, pepper, ammunition, seeds, packaged and canned food, various spices, nails/screws, small tools, tape, knives and batteries. Then you should buy a little silver and a little gold. A few boxes of No-Rad (potassium iodide anti-radiation tablets) will be more valuable than gold if you are in a contaminated area. Get a supply today.

Following are some items that should be in your home: Extra pair of eye glasses or contact lenses, needles and thread, plastic sheeting, medicine dropper, matches, flashlight and batteries, aluminum foil, disposable baby bottle liners, toilet paper, sanitary napkins, insect repellent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, candles, lamp oil, battery operated smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors. You also need paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils, baby needs, diapers (cloth), household bleach, Lysol, large and small plastic trash bags, deodorant, good shovel, garden rake, good hoe, hatchet, hack saw and extra blades, ammunition (can be used for bartering as well as protection), dish washing soap, bath soap, laundry soap, contraceptives, tools for repairs, kits to repair flat tires on various vehicles (also an air pump), assorted nails and screws, solder, lead, oil for autos and tractors, portable AM-FM radio, flashlights with plenty of batteries, duct tape, mouse traps, lime, shoe laces, rubber gloves, WD-40 or similar product, extra set of tires and sparkplugs, and computer paper and ink (in event we have power).

You may not have drinking water for a while so plan to treat your water from the roof or from a lake or pond. You can boil water for ten minutes and while it will kill the bugs, it will not help the taste much. However, you can add Kool Aid, Tang, or other mix to improve the taste. It will also help the taste if you pour the water (after it has cooled) back and forth from different containers.

You could always use household bleach to treat your water if the bleach contains a 5.25% solution of the chlorine compound sodium hypochlorite. It may warn, "Not for personal use," but that can be disregarded (according to FEMA) if sodium hypochlorite is the only active ingredient. Purchase the brand that has no additives such as perfumes, soaps, etc. It takes 8 drops of bleach per gallon of clear water; 16 drops per gallon of cloudy water; ½ teaspoon per 5 gallons of clear water and 1 teaspoon per 5 gallons of cloudy water to make water drinkable.

After adding the bleach to water, thoroughly mix by stirring then let stand for at least 30 minutes. Remember that iodine and bleach do not purify water but do make it safer by neutralizing harmful bacteria.

You can collect water at your downspout, your swimming pool, waterbed, back of commode, lake, ditch, river, etc. You can even drag towels across the grass early in the morning and collect enough water to keep you alive!

You can purchase products that will treat drinkable water and keep it drinkable for about 5 years without using any other chemicals. It is tasteless and can be purchased through various outlets. Don't use milk jugs to store water since they will not withstand long time storage; however, plastic soda bottles can be safely used after a thorough cleaning with very hot water. Metal cans are not the best storage containers for water since the metal affects the taste. They may also rust.

Politicians always end a speech by saying, "God bless America," but God has blessed America but America has not blessed God by reacting in a proper fashion. Hence, the

coming judgment brought to you by the followers of that “peaceful religion” of Islam. Get prepared as the fuse burns.

Is it possible for us to repent and return to greatness, or must we ride the toboggan slide to the garbage heap of history? We will soon know the answer to that question.

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Did you notice the date on that piece? August 9, 2005, it most certainly isn't if, but only when. The new approach will be to use people already in the places they're going to attack with names like Smith and Jones, or maybe Martinez. On July 26, 2005, Barbara J. Stock wrote:

Reports are slowly filtering out about a plan by Islamics to detonate several nuclear bombs around the continental United States. Osama bin Laden has lovingly named this attack “America's Hiroshima.” His logic for giving his plan this name is that the United States is the only world power to use an atomic weapon against an enemy and based on that, it is legal and within Islamic law for him to use such weapons against the American people.

According to reports obtained from captured al Qaeda agents and documents they were carrying, several nuclear devices may have been brought across the Mexican border with the help of the MS-13 gang and are already in position for use. All that is needed is the word from al Qaeda to detonate them. The plan is to kill at least four million Americans in an instant. Osama has insisted that the bombs be placed in such a manner that at least two million of the dead are children. The “Day of Islam,” bin Laden believes, will be the day America surrenders to Islam.

The number of weapons has been in dispute. The Saudis claim that there may be as many as 70 bombs within the American border and the Russians say 40 bombs is more likely, and still others say there are as few as seven. What does not seem to be in question is that the bombs are here and the clock is ticking.

The smaller number is more feasible for many reasons. Nuclear bombs are not simple grenades, and they need constant and diligent maintenance. Each bomb is carefully cared for much like a mother hen tends to her eggs. It would be difficult for Islamic terrorists to keep 70 nuclear bombs functioning properly.

Then there is the secrecy matter to consider. Seventy bombs would need 70 groups of men to service the bombs and keep them in good repair. That is a lot of people to keep such a secret. Someone would spend an hour too long in a bar and let this secret slip

out. In these times, someone bragging that he has a nuclear bomb in his basement would be noticed.

Last but not least is the fact that seven nuclear bombs might not be missed for some time, especially in the former Soviet Union. But 70 nuclear bombs vanishing would most certainly be noticed, even in the chaos of a corrupt Russia. It should also be noted that there are American teams in Russia assisting them to dismantle and maintain the Russian nuclear arsenal. Our men there would be able to report instantly if any were missing. Add to that the sheer size of a single, multiple war-head nuclear bomb and it becomes obvious that it is unlikely that bin Laden has been able to obtain one of them. Moving such a thing about without being seen would be nearly impossible.

This leaves the Russian “suitcase nukes” and some of those do seem to be missing. American authorities have known about these small nuclear bombs for some time. Although the Russian government tried to deny them, pictures have surfaced and the Russians could no longer claim that these portable bombs were just a dream that never came to fruition. We now know that several of these small, tactical, nuclear bombs are missing and these handy, easy-to-carry bombs are ideal for bin Laden’s plans. Greedy and suddenly out-of-work Russian nuclear scientists were probably easy prey for the money bin Laden may have waved in front of them.

The possible target cities listed are: New York City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, Washington DC, and Boston. Surely, more than four million people would die if all seven of these large cities were struck simultaneously. This leads one to wonder if perhaps bin Laden plans on using only four bombs in the first wave.

Would bin Laden then demand that the United States surrender to Islam? Would he use the threat of the three remaining bombs to try and force the American people to accept Islam and abandon the Constitution? That is the ultimate goal of Islam as stated by the Council on American/Islamic Relations. Would bin Laden wait a day or two and detonate the remaining bombs just for the pure joy of killing? Only he knows.

It is said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. The last nation that thought it had gained the upper hand against the United States was Japan. After a very successful attack which destroyed much of America’s naval fleet, a sober Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto is said to have related to his crew that all Japan had succeeded in doing was awakening a sleeping giant and filling it with a terrible resolve. Yamamoto knew Americans and he understood the American mindset because he had lived and gone to school in the United States. In his heart, he knew that once Americans were angered and determined, Japan would lose the war it had started. Yamamoto was right.

It seems that Islam has not learned from history. Recently, the term “Muslim Nation” has been used on Islamic sites and in Islamic newspapers. Islam has no country. Islamics believe the world is their country and because young Muslims have been taught the entire world is the “Muslim Nation,” many have no loyalty to any true country.

Would a nuclear attack on America cause confusion, panic, and chaos? Of course, it would. But as every television screen played the images of a great city like Chicago lying in ruins and Americans saw the charred bodies of fellow Americans lying in the streets, the rage would be unlike anything the world has ever witnessed. Muslims in America would be overwhelmed in a heartbeat. American rage would reach across the world to the farthest corner and there is no one that would dare to try and stop us. Sane people would be too wise to interfere and truth be known, the world would wish America success because they know they would be next if we fail.

Islamic attacks around the world are on the rise and Islam feels bold and untouchable. Muslims who truly denounce this activity have little time left to stop their warlike fellow-Muslims. Trying to denounce radical Islam after a nuclear attack would be far too late. The time is now. It is Islam's responsibility to rise up and stop the terrorists in its midst and stop the insanity.

If the killing continues, the civilized world will rise up with America and that will be the end of the Islamic dream of world domination. It could well be the end of Islam.

I believe that Muslims may curse the name of bin Laden. It may well be the last thing many Muslims ever do. Islamics are constantly issuing warnings and threats to the world. They speak of blood running in the streets. That blood may well be their own. I hope that Islamics will listen to this one warning from an average American: "Muslims must stop radical Islam now because time is short and the nuclear fuse has been lit. Once the bomb goes off it will be too late."

Both of those pieces were written over a year ago and it hasn't happened, yet. Want to know more? This is a fairly conservative website and the writers see the handwriting on the wall, [chronwatch dot com](http://chronwatch.com).

The Medieval Crusades were fought using the weapons of the times: swords, knives, spears, bows and arrows. While folks, *The Times They Are a Changing*. These days we have dumb bombs, smart bombs, missiles, airplanes, ships the size of 3½ football fields and nuclear weapons. All nuclear weapons consist of two components: conventional explosives and radioactive material. However, there are two distinct classes of nuclear weapons, dirty bombs and true nuclear bombs.

The former mix radioactive material in with the explosives and contaminate a small area. The latter use explosives to create a nuclear explosion, fission. If the necessary extra ingredients are built into the nuclear bomb, the fission causes fusion and you have a hydrogen bomb. The fusion creates extra neutrons and enhances the fission, producing a fission-fusion-fission bomb. In all likelihood if bombs are detonated on American soil, they will be ground bursts and produce large amounts of fallout.

I am not a nuclear scientist and only know what I read, but then, I read a lot. Last night I watched *Supervolcano* for the umpteenth time. The head of Homeland Insecurity didn't

want to alarm the public and rather than giving the American people the truth; he did what was politically expedient and basically forced the head of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory into supporting his position. He told the public to be prepared, just in case, with 3 days of food and water. Apparently he forgot about Katrina.

Most Americans wouldn't be affected by 7 nuclear weapons being exploded around the US, not directly. Indirectly, we're screwed. The government would like go into crisis mode and people like me wouldn't get their disability payments. I paid in more than 2½ times the amount required to qualify for the payments and no, I don't have a guilty conscience taking the money.

It would be just my luck that while we're waiting for the settlement check to clear the bank so we can finish off our preparations, 'they' will attack, ergo, the glass is half empty. I'd prefer to think the glass is half full and the attack will only come after we've completed what preparations we're going to make. If you've read my stories, you know that I'm against gun laws and only consider them 'a challenge'. Can't say that I've ever broken any even though I reside in the People's Republic of Kalifornia. A person never knows who might be reading the stories.

Like most people, if it comes to that, I'll have to shelter in place. If I had unlimited money, I'd do several things: move back to the US, buy a shelter from USS plus a second to stock with food. I'd buy a diesel powered pickup and a diesel fueled generator for the shelter. I'd also put in a large tank and stock it with B-100, pure biodiesel, if I had unlimited money. Like many Americans, we don't have unlimited sources of funds. They say that gas may hit \$2 a gallon, but as of 9/1/06, it's about \$3 a gallon in Kalifornia.

They may be right, gas may hit \$2 a gallon, in places like Iowa, but it will never happen here. And, all of the above assumes we make it through Ramadan. Eating, drinking, smoking and sexual intercourse are not allowed between dawn, and sunset. During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam by refraining from violence, anger, envy, greed, lust, angry and sarcastic retorts, and gossip. People are meant to try to get along with each other better than they normally might. All obscene and irreligious sights and sounds are to be avoided. Purity of both thought and action is important. The fast is an exacting act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a raised level of closeness to God. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, its purpose being to cleanse the inner soul and free it from harm.

Muhammad gave various injunctions to his forces during his time and adopted attitudes toward the conduct of war which can be summarized as:

- No killing of innocents (Non-combatants i.e. Women, children, monks)
- No wanton destruction of livestock, animals, orchards, trees and wells.

Islam prohibits surprise attacks and invasions. The Qur'an states, If thou fearest treachery from any group, throw back (their covenant) to them, (so as to be) on equal terms:

for Allah loveth not the treacherous. This verse is interpreted to mean that Muslims must make a proper declaration of war prior to taking military action against transgressing enemies. This rule is not binding if the adversary has already started the war. “No prisoner should be put to the sword is a very clear and unequivocal instruction given by the Prophet...’ The Prophet has prohibited the killing of anyone who is tied or is in captivity.”

The New Crusades – Chapter 2

The Cover Story from Time said:

The first message was routine enough: A “Prepare to Deploy” order sent through naval communications channels to a submarine, an Aegis-class cruiser, two minesweepers and two mine hunters. The orders didn’t actually command the ships out of port; they just said to be ready to move by Oct. 1. But inside the Navy those messages generated more buzz than usual last week when a second request, from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), asked for fresh eyes on long-standing US plans to blockade two Iranian oil ports on the Persian Gulf. The CNO had asked for a rundown on how a blockade of those strategic targets might work. When he didn’t like the analysis he received, he ordered his troops to work the lash up once again.

What’s going on? The two orders offered tantalizing clues. There are only a few places in the world where minesweepers top the list of US naval requirements. And every sailor, petroleum engineer and hedge-fund manager knows the name of the most important: the Strait of Hormuz, the 20-mile-wide bottleneck in the Persian Gulf through which roughly 40% of the world’s oil needs to pass each day. Coupled with the CNO’s request for a blockade review, a deployment of minesweepers to the west coast of Iran would seem to suggest that a much discussed – but until now largely theoretical – prospect has become real: that the US may be preparing for war with Iran.

No one knows whether – let alone when – a military confrontation with Tehran will come to pass. The fact that admirals are reviewing plans for blockades is hardly proof of their intentions. The US military routinely makes plans for scores of scenarios, the vast majority of which will never be put into practice. “Planners always plan,” says a Pentagon official. Asked about the orders, a second official said only that the Navy is stepping up its “listening and learning” in the Persian Gulf but nothing more – a prudent step, he added, after Iran tested surface-to-ship missiles there in August during a two-week military exercise. And yet from the State Department to the White House to the highest reaches of the military command, there is a growing sense that a showdown with Iran – over its suspected quest for nuclear weapons, its threats against Israel and its bid for dominance of the world’s richest oil region – may be impossible to avoid. The chief of the US Central Command (Centcom), General John Abizaid, has called a commanders conference for later this month in the Persian Gulf – sessions he holds at least quarterly – and Iran is on the agenda.

On its face, of course, the notion of a war with Iran seems absurd. By any rational measure, the last thing the US can afford is another war. Two unfinished wars – one on Iran’s eastern border, the other on its western flank – are daily depleting America’s treasury and overworked armed forces. Most of Washington’s allies in those adventures have made it clear they will not join another gamble overseas. What’s more, the Bush team, led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, has done more diplomatic spadework on Iran than on any other project in its 5½ years in office. For more than 18 months, Rice has kept the Administration’s hardline faction at bay while leading a coal-

tion that includes four other members of the UN Security Council and is trying to force Tehran to halt its suspicious nuclear ambitions. Even Iran's former President, Mohammed Khatami, was in Washington this month calling for a "dialogue" between the two nations.

But superpowers don't always get to choose their enemies or the timing of their confrontations. The fact that all sides would risk losing so much in armed conflict doesn't mean they won't stumble into one anyway. And for all the good arguments against any war now, much less this one, there are just as many indications that a genuine, eyeball-to-eyeball crisis between the US and Iran may be looming, and sooner than many realize. "At the moment," says Ali Ansari, a top Iran authority at London's Chatham House, a foreign-policy think tank, "we are headed for conflict."

So what would it look like? Interviews with dozens of experts and government officials in Washington, Tehran and elsewhere in the Middle East paint a sobering picture: military action against Iran's nuclear facilities would have a decent chance of succeeding, but at a staggering cost. And therein lays the excruciating calculus facing the US and its allies: Is the cost of confronting Iran greater than the dangers of living with a nuclear Iran? And can anything short of war persuade Tehran's fundamentalist regime to give up its dangerous game?

Road To War

The crisis with Iran has been years in the making. Over the past decade, Iran has acquired many of the pieces, parts and plants needed to make a nuclear device. Although Iranian officials insist that Iran's ambitions are limited to nuclear energy, the regime has asserted its right to develop nuclear power and enrich uranium that could be used in bombs as an end in itself – a symbol of sovereign pride, not to mention a useful prop for politicking. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has crisscrossed the country in recent months making Iran's right to a nuclear program a national cause and trying to solidify his base of hardline support in the Revolutionary Guards. The nuclear program is popular with average Iranians and the elites as well. "Iranian leaders have this sense of past glory, this belief that Iran should play a lofty role in the world," says Nasser Hadian, professor of political science at Tehran University.

But the nuclear program isn't Washington's only worry about Iran. While stoking nationalism at home, Tehran has dramatically consolidated its reach in the region. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has sponsored terrorist groups in a handful of countries, but its backing of Hezbollah, the militant group that took Lebanon to war with Israel this summer, seems to be changing the Middle East balance of power. There is circumstantial evidence that Iran ordered Hezbollah to provoke this summer's war, in part to demonstrate that Tehran can stir up big trouble if pushed to the brink. The precise extent of coordination between Hezbollah and Tehran is unknown. But no longer in dispute after the standoff in July is Iran's ability to project power right up to the borders of Israel. It is no coincidence that the talk in Washington about what to do with Iran be-

come more focused after Hezbollah fought the Israeli army to a virtual standstill this summer.

And yet the West has been unable to compel Iran to comply with its demands. Despite all the work Rice has put into her coalition, diplomatic efforts are moving too slowly, some believe, to stop the Iranians before they acquire the makings of a nuclear device. And Iran has played its hand shrewdly so far. Tehran took weeks to reply to a formal proposal from the UN Security Council calling on a halt to uranium enrichment. When it did, its official response was a mosaic of half-steps, conditions and boilerplate that suggested Tehran has little intention of backing down. "The Iranians," says a Western diplomat in Washington, "are very able negotiators." That doesn't make war inevitable.

But at some point the US and its allies may have to confront the ultimate choice. The Bush Administration has said it won't tolerate Iran having a nuclear weapon. Once it does, the regime will have the capacity to carry out Ahmadinejad's threats to eliminate Israel. And in practical terms, the US would have to consider military action long before Iran had an actual bomb. In military circles, there is a debate about where – and when – to draw that line. US Intelligence Chief John Negroponte told Time in April that Iran is five years away from having a nuclear weapon. But some nonproliferation experts worry about a different moment: when Iran is able to enrich enough uranium to fuel a bomb – a point that comes well before engineers actually assemble a nuclear device. Many believe that is when a country becomes a nuclear power. That red line, experts say, could be just a year away.

Would An Attack Work?

The answer is yes and no.

No one is talking about a ground invasion of Iran. Too many US troops are tied down elsewhere to make it possible, and besides, it isn't necessary. If the US goal is simply to stunt Iran's nuclear program, it can be done better and more safely by air. An attack limited to Iran's nuclear facilities would nonetheless require a massive campaign. Experts say that Iran has between 18 and 30 nuclear-related facilities. The sites are dispersed around the country – some in the open, some cloaked in the guise of conventional factories, some buried deep underground.

A Pentagon official says that among the known sites there are 1,500 different "aim points," which means the campaign could well require the involvement of almost every type of aircraft in the US arsenal: Stealth bombers and fighters, B-1Bs and B-2s, as well as F-15s and F-16s operating from land and F/A-18s from aircraft carriers.

GPS-guided munitions and laser-targeted bombs – sighted by satellite, spotter aircraft and unmanned vehicles – would do most of the bunker busting. But because many of the targets are hardened under several feet of reinforced concrete, most would have to be hit over and over to ensure that they were destroyed or sufficiently damaged. The US would have to mount the usual aerial ballet, refueling tankers as well as search-and-

rescue helicopters in case pilots were shot down by Iran's aging but possibly still effective air defenses. US submarines and ships could launch cruise missiles as well, but their warheads are generally too small to do much damage to reinforced concrete –and might be used for secondary targets. An operation of that size would hardly be surgical. Many sites are in highly populated areas, so civilian casualties would be a certainty. Whatever the order of battle, US strikes would have a lasting impression on Iran's rulers. US officials believe that a campaign of several days, involving hundreds or even thousands of sorties, could set back Iran's nuclear program by two to three years.

Hit hard enough, some believe, Iranians might develop second thoughts about their government's designs as a regional nuclear power. Some US foes of Iran's regime believe that the crisis of legitimacy that the ruling clerics would face in the wake of a US attack could trigger their downfall, although others are convinced it would unite the population with the government in anti-American rage.

But it is also likely that the US could carry out a massive attack and still leave Iran with some part of its nuclear program intact. It's possible that US warplanes could destroy every known nuclear site – while Tehran's nuclear wizards, operating at other, undiscovered sites even deeper underground, continued their work. "We don't know where it all is," said a White House official, "so we can't get it all."

What Would Come Next?

No one who has spent any time thinking about an attack on Iran doubts that a US operation would reap a whirlwind. The only mystery is what kind. "It's not a question of whether we can do a strike or not and whether the strike could be effective," says retired Marine General Anthony Zinni. "It certainly would be, to some degree. But are you prepared for all that follows?"

Retired Air Force Colonel Sam Gardiner, who taught strategy at the National War College, has been conducting a mock US-Iran war game for American policymakers for the past five years. Virtually every time he runs the game, Gardiner says, a similar nightmare scenario unfolds: the US attack, no matter how successful, spawns a variety of asymmetrical retaliations by Tehran. First comes terrorism: Iran's initial reaction to air strikes might be to authorize a Hezbollah attack on Israel, in order to draw Israel into the war and rally public support at home.

Next, Iran might try to foment as much mayhem as possible inside the two nations on its flanks, Afghanistan and Iraq, where more than 160,000 US troops hold a tenuous grip on local populations. Iran has already dabbled in partnership with warlords in western Afghanistan, where US military authority has never been strong; it would be a small step to lend aid to Taliban forces gaining strength in the south. Meanwhile, Tehran has links to the main factions in Iraq, which would welcome a boost in money and weapons, if just to strengthen their hand against rivals. Analysts generally believe that Iran could in a short time orchestrate a dramatic increase in the number and severity of attacks on US

troops in Iraq. As Syed Ayad, a secular Shi'ite cleric and Iraqi Member of Parliament says, "America owns the sky of Iraq with their Apaches, but Iran owns the ground."

Next, there is oil. The Persian Gulf, a traffic jam on good days, would become a parking lot. Iran could plant mines and launch dozens of armed boats into the bottleneck, choking off the shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz and causing a massive disruption of oil-tanker traffic. A low-key Iranian mining operation in 1987 forced the US to reflag Kuwaiti oil tankers and escort them, in slow-moving files of one and two, up and down the Persian Gulf. A more intense operation would probably send oil prices soaring above \$100 per bbl. – which may explain why the Navy wants to be sure its small fleet of minesweepers is ready to go into action at a moment's notice. It is unlikely that Iran would turn off its own oil spigot or halt its exports through pipelines overland, but it could direct its proxies in Iraq and Saudi Arabia to attack pipelines, wells and shipment points inside those countries, further choking supply and driving up prices.

That kind of retaliation could quickly transform a relatively limited US mission in Iran into a much more complicated one involving regime change. An Iran determined to use all its available weapons to counterattack the US and its allies would present a challenge to American prestige that no Commander in Chief would be likely to tolerate for long.

Zinni, for one, believes an attack on Iran could eventually lead to US troops on the ground. "You've got to be careful with your assumptions," he says. "In Iraq, the assumption was that it would be a liberation, not an occupation. You've got to be prepared for the worst case, and the worst case involving Iran takes you down to boots on the ground." All that, he says, makes an attack on Iran a "dumb idea." Abizaid, the current Centcom boss, chose his words carefully last May. "Look, any war with a country that is as big as Iran, that has a terrorist capability along its borders, that has a missile capability that is external to its own borders and that has the ability to affect the world's oil markets is something that everyone needs to contemplate with a great degree of clarity."

Can It Be Stopped?

Given the chaos that a war might unleash, what options does the world have to avoid it? One approach would be for the US to accept Iran as a nuclear power and learn to live with an Iranian bomb, focusing its efforts on deterrence rather than pre-emption. The risk is that a nuclear-armed Iran would use its regional primacy to become the dominant foreign power in Iraq, threaten Israel and make it harder for Washington to exert its will in the region. And it could provoke Sunni countries in the region, like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to start nuclear programs of their own to contain rising Shi'ite power.

Those equally unappetizing prospects – war or a new arms race in the Middle East – explain why the White House is kicking up its efforts to resolve the Iran problem before it gets that far. Washington is doing everything it can to make Iran think twice about its ongoing game of stonewall. It is a measure of the Administration's unity on Iran that confrontationalists like Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld have lately not wandered off the rhetorical reservation. Everyone has been

Careful – for now – to stick to Rice’s diplomatic emphasis. “Nobody is considering a military option at this point,” says an Administration official. “We’re trying to prevent a situation in which the President finds himself having to decide between a nuclear-armed Iran or going to war. The best hope of avoiding that dilemma is hard-nosed diplomacy, one that has serious consequences.”

Rice continues to try for that. This week in New York City, she will push her partners to get behind a new sanctions resolution that would ban Iranian imports of dual-use technologies, like parts for its centrifuge cascades for uranium enrichment, and bar travel overseas by certain government officials. The next step would be restrictions on government purchases of computer software and hardware, office supplies, tires and auto parts – steps Russia and China have signaled some reluctance to endorse. But even Rice’s advisers don’t believe that Iran can be persuaded to completely abandon its ambitions. Instead, they hope to tie Iran up in a series of suspensions, delays and negotiations until a more pragmatic faction of leadership in Tehran gains the upper hand.

At the moment, that sounds as much like a prayer as a strategy. A former CIA director, asked not long ago whether a moderate faction will ever emerge in Tehran, quipped, “I don’t think I’ve ever met an Iranian moderate – not at the top of the government, anyway.” But if sanctions don’t work, what might? Outside the Administration, a growing group of foreign-policy hands from both parties have called on the US to bring Tehran into direct negotiations in the hope of striking a grand bargain. Under that formula, the US might offer Iran some security guarantees – such as forswearing efforts to topple Iran’s theocratic regime – in exchange for Iran’s agreeing to open its facilities to international inspectors and abandon weapons-related projects. It would be painful for any US Administration to recognize the legitimacy of a regime that sponsors terrorism and calls for Israel’s destruction – but the time may come when that’s the only bargaining chip short of war the US has left. And still that may not be enough. “[The Iranians] would give up nuclear power if they truly believed the US would accept Iran as it is,” says a university professor in Tehran who asked not to be identified. “But the mistrust runs too deep for them to believe that is possible.”

Such distrust runs both ways and is getting deeper. Unless the US, its allies and Iran can find a way to make diplomacy work, the whispers of blockades and minesweepers in the Persian Gulf may soon be drowned out by the cries of war. And if the US has learned anything over the past five years, it’s that war in the Middle East rarely goes according to plan. – Reported by Brian Bennett/Baghdad, James Graff/Paris, Scott MacLeod/Cairo, J.F.O. McAllister/London, Tim McGirk/Jerusalem, Azadeh Moaveni/Tehran and Mike Allen, Sally B. Donnelly, Elaine Shannon, Mark Thompson, Douglas Waller, Michael Weisskopf and Adam Zagorin/Washington

It would appear that the radical Muslims are as selective in their reading of the Qur’an as some of us are in our reading of the Bible. I need some help here, can anyone give the chapter and verse in the New Testament that says we can shove Christianity down people throats? I do know for a fact that it says, “As ye sow, so also shall ye reap.”

As far as I am personally concerned, if those countries want a fundamentalist Islamic government, they can have it. But then, I'm a Methodist and we're very tolerant when it comes to religion. While not a creedal church, most Methodists do affirm the doctrines in the form of the Apostles and Nicene Creeds. In devotional terms, these confessions are said to embrace the biblical witness to God's activity in creation, encompass God's gracious self-involvement in the dramas of history, and anticipate the consummation of God's reign. Excerpts from Wesley's Covenant prayer:

...Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy, others are difficult. Some bring honor, others bring reproach. Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both... Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

...I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal...

From its beginnings in England, Methodism laid emphasis on social service and education. Numerous originally Methodist institutions of higher education were founded in the United States in the early half of the 19th century, and today altogether there are about twenty universities and colleges named as "Methodist" or "Wesleyan" still in existence, several in, gasp, Iowa.

You can take the young man off the farm, but you can never take the farm out of the young man. There's no way I could ever go home, you know. I'm far too liberal for the tastes of folks in Floyd County, Iowa. I'm certain that the majority of firearms in my hometown are .22 rifles and 12 gauge shotguns. The round(s) in the pipe(s) of the shotgun is (are) probably loaded with rock salt.

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One friend suggested I might like living in Fredonia, Arizona. He said to emphasize that I was an Iowan and not a Kalifornian. I checked the place out:

Population (year 2000): 1,036. Estimated population in July 2005: 1,051 (+1.4% change)

Males: 529 (51.1%), Females: 507 (48.9%)

Coconino County

Zip code: 86022

Median resident age: 35.2 years

Median household income: \$30,288 (year 2000)

Median house value: \$77,900 (year 2000)

Races in Fredonia:

White Non-Hispanic (84.8%)

American Indian (12.5%)

Hispanic (1.4%)

Two or more races (1.4%)

Black (1.1%)

Ancestries: English (25.5%), United States (12.7%), German (8.1%), Irish (7.7%), Danish (5.7%), Scottish (3.1%).

Elevation: 4672 feet

Land area: 7.4 square miles

The wife said the town was too small. I didn't agree, it sounded pretty good to me. Near as I could tell, the largest nearby city was Kanab, Utah. Locals refer to Kanab as "Little Hollywood" due to its history as a filming location for western movies. I thought at first it was because of Monument Valley. Wrong, Monument Valley is on the Navajo Reservation on Highway 163 right at the border.

"Can I speak to Ron?"

"Hang on."

"Hey Gar-bear, what's up?"

"I wanted to ask you a question; just how serious are you about moving to Cedar Hill?"

"We'd like to but we can't afford to. Linda's dad is hanging on to life like he owns it; I've told you that before. He will outlive us all. Why?"

"A friend suggested that it might be a good time to get out of the PRK. He suggested a small town in northern Arizona, Fredonia. It's just south of the Utah border and a very small town, around 1,000. It would only be a hop, skip and jump to Cedar Hill from there. I could take 89 out of Kanab south to 160 and 160 into Durango."

"I heard this before, how serious are you?"

"As a heart attack. My only problem is talking Sharon into it."

"What's her problem?"

"Small town."

"So what?"

"Well, I think she's also worried that if we move, Amy won't have a place to live."

"What do you say?"

“Well, I’ve had enough of Amy to last a lifetime. She never even speaks to me unless I speak to her first.”

“I can empathize; we have John, Kevin and Brenda living with us. What do you think you will do?”

“Sharon and I talked about going through all the junk we’ve saved and getting rid of it. To the extent we could convert it into cash; we could use the cash to buy things we really need, like a generator.”

“I suppose I should buy one too. Say, did you ever buy that rifle you wanted?”

“I’m $\frac{3}{4}$ the way there, all I need now is the rifle. I have everything else I wanted. This is an open line, I can’t tell you, I’d have to show you.”

“What are you going to do about the rifle?”

“I called Santa Fe Gun Galleria and they have 3 in stock.”

“Figures, that’s the highest priced gun store in the Antelope Valley. You aren’t going to buy from them are you?”

“A bird in hand is worth two in the bush, I just might.”

“What does he have?”

“A Loaded with the synthetic stock. The MSRP is \$1,688. I might get out the door for \$1,900 including tax and background check. Then, I’ll have to cool my heels for a while until she says I can have a handgun.”

“That’s a lot of money for a rifle.”

“It sure is, I should have bought one years ago and never should have sold off my gun collection. How about you, have you gotten any new guns?”

“Can’t afford to, but I have enough anyway.”

“So, tell me, what were your plans if you had the money to move?”

“Pay off the Palmdale house and keep it for the kids to live in. Buy a home near Robert in Cedar Hill and stock it with new furniture.”

“I’m going to work on mama, next month we get a big check from Iowa. I’d like to get that rifle while he has it in stock.”

“What would you do for a handgun?”

“I have the .32 auto, I’ll make do.”

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“That will be \$1,852.26. Ok?”

“No thanks, it’s a bit steep.”

“We carry extra magazines.”

“I’m afraid that’s all the money I have at the moment, I’ll have to come back.”

“You do know that we also sell gold and silver coins, don’t you?”

“I’ll keep it in mind.”

Sandy Storm’s out the door price would have been the 90% of MSRP and while she didn’t have one in stock, she guaranteed delivery by the day the waiting period was up so I bought it from her and saved a bunch. Sharon was going to Iowa to visit her sister and I figured my luck would have the check come in while she was gone. She was leaving October 10th and would be coming home the 25th, the month of Ramadan. So, I pressed her to let me buy the rifle. The next week was the longest week of my life, since the last one.

September 17, 2006 was Constitution Day at the DoD, they offered a course on the Constitution and a certificate. I passed but didn’t get a perfect score. They did the liberal thing when it came to the 2nd Amendment, calling it controversial. If you think it’s controversial, vote for Hillary, you deserve her. A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. It’s that comma thing.

The Second Amendment, as passed by the House and Senate and later ratified by the States, reads:

A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

The New Crusades – Chapter 3

The hand-written copy of the Bill of Rights which hangs in the National Archives had slightly different capitalization and punctuation inserted by William Lambert, the scribe who prepared it. This copy reads:

A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Both versions are commonly used by “official” Government publications.

A part of the Antifederalist belief was that if “the whole body of people is armed” they can defend against the risk of tyranny from a standing army. Counterpoint to this belief can be seen with Federalist Noah Webster who wrote that military force must be made strong enough to resist rebellion of the people but that it must also be subject to Congress which derives its source of power from the people:

Another source of power in government is a military force. But this, to be efficient, must be superior to any force that exists among the people, or which they can command: for otherwise this force would be annihilated, on the first exercise of acts of oppression. Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every country in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States.

A military force, at the command of Congress, can execute no laws, but such as the people perceive to be just and constitutional; for they will possess the power, and jealousy will instantly inspire the inclination, to resist the execution of a law which appears to them unjust and oppressive. In spite of all the nominal powers, vested in Congress by the constitution, were the system once adopted in its fullest latitude, still the actual exercise of them would be frequently interrupted by popular jealousy. I am bold to say, that ten just and constitutional measures would be resisted, where one unjust or oppressive law would be enforced. The powers vested in Congress are little more than nominal; nay real power cannot be vested in them, nor in anybody, but in the people. The source of power is in the people of this country, and cannot for ages, and probably never will, be removed.

Federalists, on the other hand, believed that federal government must be trusted and that the army and the militias “ought certainly to be under the regulation and at the disposal” of federal government. This belief was well stated by Alexander Hamilton:

The power of regulating the militia, and of commanding its services in times of insurrection and invasion are natural incidents to the duties of superintending the common defense, and of watching over the internal peace of the Confederacy

Reaching a compromise between these widely disparate positions was not easy, but none-the-less, a compromise was negotiated with the result being the Second Amendment.

Orrin Hatch says:

They argue that the Second Amendment's words "right of the people" mean "a right of the state" – apparently overlooking the impact of those same words when used in the First and Fourth Amendments. The "right of the people" to assemble or to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures is not contested as an individual guarantee. Still they ignore consistency and claim that the right to "bear arms" relates only to military uses. This not only violates a consistent constitutional reading of "right of the people" but also ignores that the second amendment protects a right to "keep" arms.

"When our ancestors forged a land "conceived in liberty", they did so with musket and rifle. When they reacted to attempts to dissolve their free institutions, and established their identity as a free nation, they did so as a nation of armed freemen. When they sought to record forever a guarantee of their rights, they devoted one full amendment out of ten to nothing but the protection of their right to keep and bear arms against governmental interference. Under my chairmanship the Subcommittee on the Constitution will concern itself with a proper recognition of, and respect for, this right most valued by free men."

In 2001, the fifth Circuit ruled that:

There are numerous instances of the phrase "bear arms" being used to describe a civilian's carrying of arms. Early constitutional provisions or declarations of rights in at least some ten different states speak of the right of the "people" [or "citizen" or "citizens"] "to bear arms in defense of themselves [or "himself"] and the state," or equivalent words, thus indisputably reflecting that under common usage "bear arms" was in no sense restricted to bearing arms in military service.

Hey, I have my mind made up on this and it's not open to discussion. I don't care how YOU interpret the law; it's how I interpret it that matters. Anyway, Aim Surplus had South African for \$187 plus shipping (\$42 per box) for 980 rounds so I bought 1,960 rounds. And, ten more magazines from Ammoman, shipped to Arkansas.

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This story is about the actions of a few radical Muslims and the damage they did to the country, not about the right to keep and bear arms. I am a very polite citizen; I'll leave it to you to guess why. What's more, I don't drive because I don't have a license, not because I don't know how to.

Amy doesn't really like to cook, especially not for me. With Sharon gone for 2 weeks, I figured I'd be on my own or eating a lot of McDonalds. I counted the boxes of macaroni

and cheese, I wouldn't go hungry. Just to make sure, I asked her to buy another bundle of the stuff. I was in good shape for her trip; I had my dog and my new rifle.

Ramadan is estimated to begin on 9/24/06 and end on 10/23/06. We'd be halfway through it before she left and it would be over by the time she returned. The check came the day after she left, on the 11th. It required her signature because it represented a settlement and had the usual disclaimer printed on the back. Her car was here, she took the shuttle to LAX. Sister Shirley had her dog, Brita, operated on and she had her cataracts taken out and new lens inserted. Talk about a pampered dog!

I sort of like peas with my macaroni and cheese. The day Sharon left, Amy called and wanted to know if I wanted a double cheeseburger and fries. I told her, "No thank you, I have macaroni and cheese plus peas. She didn't say anything when she got home, I think that made her angry. Sharon makes runny macaroni and cheese and Amy makes it so thick it's hard to eat and the cheese isn't thoroughly blended. Unlike the ladies in my life, I had an MBA and could read the directions on the side of the box. The peas were even easier, a little water, a saucepan and peas in 5 minutes; drain water, add butter and eat.

After a week I had concluded that I couldn't wipe the bluing off the rifle with my silicon gun cloth and I was tired to macaroni. I soaked 4 cups of beans and when they were cooked, added onion, browned hamburger and a dash of garlic. A couple of cans of diced tomatoes, tomato paste, chili powder and time gave me enough chili for a week. I told Amy to help herself but only because I knew she didn't like chili.

It was getting late in the game if they were going to strike America during Ramadan. However, the specific threat was to attack coalition forces in Afghanistan during Ramadan, not the US. Regardless, they achieved their objective; they don't call them terrorists on a whim. Being privy to a few analyses by people to analyze these situations for a living didn't hurt. Some of that information was labeled, 'You didn't receive this email', so I can't repeat the contents here.

Sharon was due back in just a few days and knowing her, she didn't buy flight insurance. I have never liked to fly and always bought flight insurance. They might get me, but for sure, they'd pay. Included in my hobby of reading were the reports of the NTSB. While near misses occur too often we have very few mid-air collisions in commercial aviation. Not since that one over the Grand Canyon that many of you are too young to remember. On the morning of Saturday, June 30, 1956, United Flight 718 collided with TWA Flight 2 over the eastern end of the Grand Canyon. Since the accident involved two of the largest commercial aircraft then in service – a Lockheed Super Constellation, and a Douglas DC-7 – it resulted in the greatest loss of life, by far, in any accident of the time. The enormity of the loss gave impetus to a major improvement in air traffic control with the formation of the Federal Aviation Administration (replacing the CAA) and the widespread use of collision avoidance radar on commercial aircraft. They'll use any excuse to create another federal agency.

The quest continued over the weekend to pinpoint the source of E. coli bacteria that has tainted fresh or packaged spinach, even as some consumer groups called for greater federal authority to regulate farming practices.

She called and I told her that her check came but the bank wouldn't deposit it without her signature. Meanwhile I worked over my lists. The next firearm was to be a .45acp. I'm a fair shot with a handgun and always have been, but I'll never enter any shooting matches. She couldn't remember if the check was for 26.4 or 24.6 and the difference would be all it took to make me feel whole.

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By the time she got home, I was bordering on desperation. She had a lot of shopping to do when Saturday the 28th came. For starters, she could buy the freezer and generator. I'd talked to Chris about buying used drums and had even found valves and vents on the internet. I concluded I wouldn't need a drum rack unless I went to 4 drums. Chris even offered to drive me and the drums to the gas station to get them filled and to use his engine crane to unload them. I ordered a bottle of PRI-G off the web, there was that much in the account, plus my disability check came in the 25th. I also had a suspicion of when the attacks would occur, if at all. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving in the United States is historically one of the busiest retail shopping days of the year. Many consider it the "official" beginning to the holiday season. Most retailers would open very early.

I was going nuts using that as the deadline to get our preparations completed. I even went through boxes in the garage and cleared 3 set of shelves to hold the food on Sharon's list. I was adding things, too. Like a couple of gallons of dial soap, 6 more cans of coffee, she only had 24, 24 bars of Irish Spring and even a pair of work boots from Wal-ly World.

I had the same pair of work boots from 1968 until about 2004. After my feet went bad, she asked me, "Will you ever wear these again?" I said yes, but later couldn't find the boots. Darn, they were just getting broken in and all they needed was a new set of heels. In order to buy a handgun in Kalifornia, you need to take a written test that costs \$25. I got the book when I bought the rifle and began memorizing, it was harder than you think. I'm sure that one of these days they'll add a safety class that costs \$100.

Speaking of English, a foreign language in Kalifornia, one is supposed to only put one subject in a paragraph. I always figured, why waste the space?

"Have a good time in Iowa?"

"Charlene almost drove me to drink."

"And, the good news?"

“She came home a week early. Did you decide where to put those drums of gas?”

“At the back edge of the lawn, 30’ from the house.”

“Did you stabilize them?”

“You bet and we have enough stabilizer left over for another drum plus.”

“Do you really think the Muslims will explode a nuclear weapon in the US?”

“They claim that the materials are already here. Talk is that they plan to hit 7 cities, New York City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, Washington DC, and Boston.”

“Who said that?”

“Some woman named Stock.”

“What’s on the list today?”

“Take my test and order the .45 pistol. Go to Harbor Freight and pick up the generator. Sears delivers tomorrow and then we’ll have to go to Costco and stock the freezer. Did you see I cleaned some shelves in the garage?”

“Anything else?”

“I don’t expect The Package until tomorrow. It has a Nukalert for your keychain. It chirps if there is radiation in the air. You know, I was talking to Ronald McDonald last month about moving out of Dodge to someplace safe.”

“What did he say?”

“They can’t afford to move until she gets her inheritance. I mentioned Fredonia, Arizona to him and said your biggest complaint was that it was a small town. What we should do is junk all but our best furniture and paint the inside of the house. If you hold some money back, we can install new carpet and put the house on the market. We could probably find a mobile home dealer there and move into a trailer park as last resort.”

“What about rental units?”

“I checked and if there are any available, the rents are low, less than our house payment.”

“But it’s so small. The churches are probably all Mormon.”

“There’s a Lutheran Church, 4 Stake Centers, 2 Catholic Churches and 2 other churches. What’s the difference, we don’t go to church anyway.”

“I’ll think about it.”

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I called before going in to take the handgun test. I’d changed my mind from the hi-capacity SA M1911 to the Taurus PT-1911B. Illegal in California, surprise, surprise. Saved me \$25. Sent Derek a check with instructions. He bought it and tried to ship it and got the package back. Plan B and he got it back again. Plan C, hold until #1 son comes to visit and he can transport it. Worked great except Derek forgot to pack the slide stop. Pretty hard to assemble a PT1911 w/o a slide stop.

That sounded a whole lot like no to me. I sat down at my computer and checked the Threat level; it was orange. So, I called Sandy and asked her when the rifle would be in. She assured me it would be here by the time the waiting period was up. That’s 15 days in Kalifornia for any gun, even though the Brady Bill was superseded. If you were actually buying a gun for unlawful purposes, what good would 15 days do? They claim it eliminates crimes of passion. I don’t know about that, I stay mad for a very long time.

I asked if Charlene was coming for Thanksgiving, we’d tell her we’d eat at noon and plan on 2-3pm. She usually gets lost coming to our house. Apparently Geoff and his girlfriend were there, she was planning Thanksgiving and we were invited. We did that one year, thanks but no thanks. I think that’s why she eats out a lot.

The elections were over and the Republican Party held onto Congress by the slimmest of margins. Another 2 years wasted. The Senate ganged up on Bush and there would be no reinterpretation of the Geneva Convention. However, they were considering building more border fence on our southern border. Talk about close the barn door after the horse runs away, those bombs, if indeed there were any, were already here. The thefts of explosives continued to rise too; the BATFE was having a field day.

The arrest and search of Sherman’s residence culminated a five-month investigation by the Trinity County Sheriff’s Department and ATF. Sherman is an illegal alien prohibited from possessing firearms, and was alleged to have several firearms and illegal explosives devices. Sherman was transported to Sacramento for his initial appearance in federal court today.

“As a team, ATF and the Trinity County Sheriff’s Department worked diligently and after careful planning, were able to take Mr. Sherman into custody without incident,” ATF San Francisco Special Agent in Charge Stephen K. Martin said. “The illegal possession of firearms and explosives will not be tolerated by law enforcement in Northern California.” Unless you grow Marijuana.

US Attorney Roper said, “Today is a landmark day. Through our coordinated efforts, hard work and ingenuity, all of us here today were able to make a great thing happen. We’ve transformed a criminal’s business into a resource that all of law enforcement can

use to ultimately apprehend more criminals just like him.” Roper continued, “I want to thank all the federal, state and local officials, including the ATF, the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Service and the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office. This is another clear example of the success of Project Safe Neighborhoods.” They failed to reveal what trumped up charge they used on the man to steal his land (drug charge).

o

Time for a song:

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!*

Refrain

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

*At the sign of triumph Satan’s host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell’s foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.*

Refrain

*Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.*

Refrain

*What the saints established that I hold for true.
What the saints believed, that I believe too.
Long as earth endureth, men the faith will hold,
Kingdoms, nations, empires, in destruction rolled.*

Refrain

*Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never against that church prevail;
We have Christ’s own promise, and that cannot fail.*

Refrain

*Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages men and angels sing.*

Refrain

The theme is taken from references in the New Testament to the Christian being a soldier for Christ, for example II Timothy 2:3 (KJV): “Thou shalt endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” With a word change – replacing as to with off to – this might become the next Battle Hymn of the Republic.

o

It's tempting, at times, to use some less than politically correct terms with regard to the Muslims in our midst. If they've actually gone through the process and become a citizen, I say welcome aboard, if they haven't, they can get they butts back where they belong and that ain't here. Muslims in a minority aren't a problem, usually. However, these days with feelings running high, they live here at their own risk. You don't need 1,000 cell phones to blow up a bridge, you only need 2. All of the people arrested in the buying spree were later released. Maybe they were planning on shipping them overseas for use by the Taliban and the insurgents, you never know.

Anyway, we all know that Iran runs 7-11 indirectly. Actually, the company is a Japanese conglomerate. In November of 2005, Seven & I Holdings Co. completed the purchase of 7-Eleven, Inc., turning the American publicly-traded conglomerate into a publicly-traded Japanese conglomerate. Seven-Eleven Japan is itself a subsidiary of Seven & I Holdings, which also owns the Japanese Denny's chain of restaurants and Ito-Yokado. 7-Eleven has become a target of criticism and boycott threats because of its ties to Citgo, whose non-franchised stations are run by PDVSA, the Venezuelan state oil company, which is in turn partially controlled by the Venezuelan government, currently headed by Hugo Chávez.

It is necessary secretly-and urgently-to prepare for terror. And on Tuesday we will decide whether it will be through the SNK or otherwise.

What terrorist said that, bin Laden? Castro? Ché? Nope, it was Lenin. One view is that asymmetric warfare is synonymous with terrorism. Terrorism is sometimes used as a tactic by the weaker side in an asymmetric conflict. Asymmetric warfare is sometimes called terrorism by those wishing to deny the political aims of their weaker opponents and to exploit the pejorative connotations of the word. Likewise, occupying powers often label partisans “terrorists” as part of propaganda campaigns to maintain support in the occupying power's home country, and to win over the occupied people so as to cut off the partisans' principal support base. This is the root of the phrase *One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter*.

The phrase as stated “One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter” first written by Gerald Seymour in his 1975 book *Harry’s Game*. It has been repeated by such notables as Pat Buchanan (<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article5873.htm>)

The other view is that asymmetric warfare is not synonymous with terrorism, even though terrorism is sometimes used as a tactic by the weaker side. It is typical, in an asymmetric conflict, for the stronger side to accuse the weaker side as being bandits, pillagers or terrorists. These accusations are usually part of propaganda campaigns, although they are sometimes true. In fact we could say that terrorism is more likely to be synonymous with war itself, as causing fear to the enemy is always an advantage, whether this means simply banging your shield and yelling voices or killing thousands of civilians.

The war between the mujahedeen and the Red Army during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a classic asymmetric war. The aid given by the US to the mujahedeen during the war was only covert at the tactical level; the Reagan Administration was only too pleased to be able to tell the world that it was helping the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan. Of all the proxy wars fought by the USA against the USSR during the Cold War this was the most cost effective and politically successful, as it was the USSR’s most humiliating military defeat, and that defeat was a contributing factor to the implosion of the Soviet Union.

Three distinct periods have existed in the Western scholarship of the Cold War: the traditionalist, the revisionist, and the post-revisionist. The end of the Cold War opened many of the archives of the Communist states, providing documentation which has increased the support for the traditionalist position. Gaddis has written that Stalin’s “authoritarian, paranoid and narcissistic predisposition” locked the Cold War into place. “Stalin alone pursued personal security by depriving everyone else of it: no Western leader relied on terror to the extent that he did. He alone had transformed his country into an extension of himself: no Western leader could have succeeded at such a feat and none attempted it. He alone saw war and revolution as acceptable means with which to pursue ultimate ends: no Western leader associated violence with progress to the extent that he did.”

The State of Israel also represents a unique fusion of European and Middle Eastern traits, but because of geographic continuity with the Levant and a majority population that is predominantly Middle Eastern (including Sephardic Jews, Sabras, Israeli Arabs), it perhaps shares more similarities with its neighbors than is readily apparent from media coverage. To prevent confusion, I’ll avoid discussing the Druze.

o

Black Friday, 2006 would be the 24th of November. One failing of my stories is that most of the events occur on holidays. 2/26/93 was a Friday, 4/19/95 was a Wednesday and 9/11/01 was a Tuesday. Why not on a weekend or a holiday? People generally aren’t

out and about on weekends or holidays unless they're attending sporting events or fire-works displays, etc. That's why I was fixated on Black Friday. I presumed that if terrorists did attack, they'd want people concentrated in shopping centers and so on. Was I right? I'm writing the story, what do you think? They should do it on a Monday, both that and Thursday haven't been used yet.

A second thing to think about is with the information Ms. Stock gave, the 7 listed cities might be on alert, or maybe not, since Ramadan was over. Let's talk this over. New York City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, Washington DC, and Boston were the 7 cities. New York is always on Red Alert and people in Las Vegas and Los Angeles are never on alert. I guess that leaves Chicago, Miami, Washington and Boston. Nah, eliminate Washington, they always on alert too, except when ABC stored ANFO in their fair city. Chicago, Miami and Boston are left. It would be pretty cold in Chicago and Boston on black Friday but they're used to the cold. Miami would be filling with New York Jews looking for warm weather.

Strange, I thought that the New York Jews always moved to Florida when they retire. However, the Jewish population only comes in at 4%. Being in a constant state of alert has its drawbacks; you sometimes lose your edge, especially when 5 years has passed with no further attacks. "A majority of the people of the United States have lived all of their lives under emergency rule. For 40 years, freedoms and governmental procedures guaranteed by the Constitution have, in varying degrees, been abridged by laws brought into force by states of national emergency. The problem of how a constitutional democracy reacts to great crises, however, far antedates the Great Depression. As a philosophical issue, its origins reach back to the Greek city-states and the Roman Republic. And, in the United States, actions taken by the Government in times of great crises have - from, at least, the Civil War - in important ways, shaped the present phenomenon of a permanent state of national emergency." (Since March 9, 1933, the United States has been in a state of declared national emergency.)

When the Southern states walked out of Congress on March 27, 1861, the quorum to conduct business under the Constitution was lost. The only votes that Congress could lawfully take, under Parliamentary Law, were those to set the time to reconvene, take a vote to get a quorum, and vote to adjourn and set a date, time, and place to reconvene at a later time, but instead, Congress abandoned the House and Senate without setting a date to reconvene. Under the parliamentary law of Congress, when this happened, Congress became *sine die* (pronounced see-na dee-a; literally "without day") and thus when Congress adjourned *sine die*, it ceased to exist as a lawful deliberative body, and the only lawful, constitutional power that could declare war was no longer lawful, or in session.

The Southern states, by virtue of their secession from the Union, also ceased to exist *sine die*, and some state legislatures in the Northern bloc also adjourned *sine die*, and thus, all the states which were parties to creating the Constitution ceased to exist. President Lincoln executed the first executive order written by any President on April 15, 1861, Executive order 1, and the nation has been ruled by the President under execu-

tive order ever since. When Congress eventually did reconvene, it was reconvened under the military authority of the Commander-in-Chief and not by Rules of Order for Parliamentary bodies or by Constitutional Law; placing the American people under martial rule ever since that national emergency declared by President Lincoln. The Constitution for the United States of America temporarily ceased to be the law of the land, and the President, Congress, and the Courts unlawfully presumed that they were free to remake the nation in their own image, whereas, lawfully, no constitutional provisions were in place which afforded power to any of the actions which were taken which presumed to place the nation under the new form of control.

(That would be interesting if it were true. EO 1 created a court system in Louisiana, EO 1A dealt with AWOL soldiers and EO 2 dealt with illegal immigrants.)

The New Crusades – Chapter 4

Hmm, the South walked out and they call it the War of Northern Aggression. I'm confused now, but that's nothing new. Will we call the terrorist attacks the War of Muslim Aggression? Whatever we call it, I think it has to be one of those lose-lose situations. There are 2.1 billion Christians, 1.4 billion Muslims, 1.1 billion secular, 0.9 billion Hindus and so it goes down to 500,000 Scientologists.

Ingersoll said, "Is there a God? I do not know. Is man immortal? I do not know. One thing I do know, and that is that neither hope, nor fear, belief, nor denial, can change the fact. It is as it is, and it will be as it must be. We can be as honest as we are ignorant. If we are, when asked what is beyond the horizon of the known, we must say that we do not know." Ingersoll was an Illinois lawyer and politician who evolved into a well-known and sought-after orator in 19th century America, and who has been referred to as the "Great Agnostic."

Well now, $\frac{5}{6}$ of the population of the world believes in some kind of God. Islam and Christianity both believe in the same God, which accounts for about 3.5 billion people or more than half the world's population. People, I just want to say, you know, can we all get along? If Christians and Muslims go at it, it will involve more than half the world's population, are you convinced now it will be World War III? Osama is convinced. Newt is convinced. But, are YOU convinced?

From the viewpoint of Muslims, the Great Crusades never ended. Never mind Saladin kicked butt and took names. Saladin or Salah al-Din (Salah ad-Din being an honorific that means The Righteousness of the Faith in Arabic) was a 12th century Kurdish Muslim warrior from Tikrit, in present day northern Iraq, who founded the Ayyubid dynasty of Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Mecca Hejaz and Diyar Bakr. He was renowned in both the Muslim and Christian worlds for his leadership and military prowess tempered by his chivalry and merciful nature, during his war against the Crusaders.

Horse hockey! Two days after the Battle of Hattin, Saladin ordered the execution of all prisoners of the military orders by beheading. According to Imad al-Din, Saladin watched the executions "with a glad face." The execution of prisoners at Hattin was not the first by Saladin. On 29 August 1179, Saladin captured the castle at Bait al-Ahazon and approximately 700 prisoners were executed. Some upon his orders and others by his men on their own blood lust.

Soon Saladin had taken back almost every Crusader city. Saladin initially was unwilling to grant terms of quarter to the occupants of Jerusalem until Balian of Ibelin threatened to kill every Muslim in the city, estimated between 3,000 to 5,000, and to destroy Islam's holy shrines of the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque if quarter wasn't given. Saladin consulted his council and these terms were accepted. Ransom was to be paid for each Frank in the city whether man, woman, or child. Saladin generously allowed many to leave without having the required amount for ransom. According to Imad al-Din, ap-

proximately 7,000 men and 8,000 women could not make their ransom and were taken into slavery.

◦

I'd better get busy sharpening Rambo III, there's some heads that may need to be removed. Maybe one version of the Golden Rule says, "*Do unto others as they do unto you.*" Wait, there's more:

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

A stitch in time saves nine.

Nature abhors a vacuum.

Every man has a price.

Consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds.

All's well that ends well.

He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

He who laughs last laughs best.

History repeats itself.

A word to the wise is sufficient

Beauty is skin deep. (and ugly is to the core)

Pride comes before destruction.

It's an ill wind that brings no good.

A man and his money are soon parted.

Age goes before beauty.

[Cast not your] Pearls before swine.

He who dances pays the fiddler.

The good die young.

You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear. (My father liked that one, using it to refer to me.)

And last, but not least, Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.

On the other hand ANFO isn't like a box of chocolates. Because you always know what you're gonna get.

◦

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC) released a 231-page report that presents recommendations for how to move the nonproliferation and disarmament agenda forward. If implemented, the recommendations would have significant effect on the pace of nuclear disarmament and the efforts to curtail proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Unfortunately, the WMDC report does not present ideas for how to break the current deadlock but instead acknowledges that implementation of its recommendations may have to wait until "there is a greater general readiness to return to a cooperative multilateral system in the sphere of arms control and disarmament."

Surprisingly, the report does not recommend that Israel, India and Pakistan join the non-proliferation treaty, although their absence is said to hurt the regime. Instead, the countries are urged to join a number of other initiatives such as the Comprehensive test Ban Treaty.

The Commission's report uses the World Nuclear Forces overview co-produced by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) for the SIPRI Yearbook to describe the status of existing nuclear arsenals.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC) was established in 2003 by the Swedish Government acting on a proposal by then United Nations Under-Secretary-General Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka) to present realistic proposals aimed at the greatest possible reduction of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction. The Commission is chaired by Hans Blix, the former Executive Chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), and includes among others William J. Perry, former US Secretary of Defense, Jayantha Dhanapala, the former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and Alexei G. Arbatov of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The Federation of American Scientists has all sorts of calculators for those of you who didn't live in one of those cities. I have a copy of the report in my subdirectory of other useless pdf files from the FAS.

o

So much for my crystal ball, they blew up New York City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, Washington DC and Boston, but they did do it on Black Friday. Those weren't any suitcase bombs either, according to the radio and TV, the average yield was ~10kT and all 7 were ground bursts. IIRC, I did the retaliation bit in the last story and that didn't work out too hot. At least the lights didn't go out, yet. And, I had the roll of plastic and duct tape the shelter in place video recommended. So while the girls were busy taping the windows and doors shut, I moved the generator and 3 drums of gas into the garage and ran a piece of flexible metal ducting underneath the garage door so we didn't get gassed.

Amy was home sick, she said, and the kids weren't in day care so the wagons were already circled. I drug the kerosene and Coleman fuel and stoves out from the shed and added them to the garage. I also stuffed blankets under the garage door as per the video and poured water on them until they were wet. A good friend had given me the video and I watched it a couple of times.

As they were finishing up, I added batteries to everything in The Package that needed them and set the survey meter on low. Next, I charged the dosimeters and we were as ready as we could be. Except, we were in Palmdale and not Fredonia. I rigged 2 of our super-duper 3M furnace filters in a window to let in some air, sealing around them with

plastic and duct tape. They claim to catch pollen, I sure hope they work. Finally, I passed out the iodate.

“The generator and the camp stoves are in the garage if we need them. The external part for the CD V-717 is outside the house and we have the CD V-715 in here. Amy, take Patti the roll of plastic and some duct tape and tell her what we did. We only have a little bit of time left before we get fallout.”

“Dad, the wind is out of the north.”

“Take your time. Sharon, call Lorrie and see if she wants to come over here. If not, we can give her some KIO_3 . We aren't nearly prepared as I would like to be, we're short on guns, ammo, protection from radiation and a whole list of things.”

“We have some money, can you buy some things on short notice?”

“Damn Kalifornia laws make buying guns next to impossible on short notice. The kinds and amounts of ammo I'd want aren't easy to come by. It would also mean dealing with that guy at Santa Fe Gun Galleria and I'll bet his prices just doubled. I think he's a survivalist and the store supports his preparations.”

“The wind is supposed to change to the west tomorrow. I don't believe we'd see any fallout before then. Get in the car, we can pay cash for some stuff and use the debit card for some more.”

I'd have never thought she offer to drive me to buy guns and ammo. We headed to Big Five and bought ammo on the debit card. They sold shotguns and the guy behind the counter said the instacheck was up and running. The terms were cash only and he laid the 4473 on the counter. I dug out my CA ID card and started to fill in the form. When I had it done he took it and left. The gun was laying in the box on the counter. When he came back he was all grins.

“You're good. That's \$356.35. We're going to close up this evening and I'm not sure when we'll reopen. You'd better take that with you, do you have enough 00?”

“Didn't see any.”

“We keep it behind the counter, but all we have left is Remington 12 pellet. It's \$162.50 a case plus tax.”

“I'll take a case, got any slugs?”

“Same price.”

“Got a case?”

“Cash or debit card?”

“Debit.”

Glad we started there, Big Five is quite affordable. The CD V-715 still wasn't clicking and I told Sharon that we should take a chance on Santa Fe being open. I'd better explain why. He has a rack with about 8 Mini-14 rifles, some blued, some stainless and two that were Parkerized. Never saw one that was Parkerized before and Ruger doesn't show them on the website.

“How much is left on the debit card?”

“About \$650 and before you ask, I have about \$350 in cash.”

“Are you open?”

“Not for long, someone bombed LA.”

“Yeah and 6 other cities. Do you have any of the Mini-14's left?”

“Five, 2 stainless and 3 blued. “\$825 for the stainless and \$775 for the blued.”

“Say, I think the war has started, are you going to be here in 5 days so I can pick up my rifle?”

“You mean the one you bought when you bought when you were looking at the M1A? What did you do, forget it? It's still on layaway unless you don't want it. Otherwise the balance is \$840. I have 10 & 20 round factory magazines; you're a cop, right?”

“Uh, right.”

“Thought so. I can let you have them for \$25 each.”

“I have \$650 on the debit card and \$350 in cash and I need ammo. Would you take a check on Wells Fargo for the ammo?”

“I'll take a check for the difference and if the bank doesn't open, you can come back and redeem it, I have your address in the records and on the 4473. How many magazines?”

“Seven.”

“Ok, $(775 + 7(25) + 200) * 1.0825$ equals \$1,245. I'll need your ID card, debit card, \$350 in cash and a check for \$245.”

He left the same time we did, but he was loading weapons into the back of his camper topped pickup. We scurried home although there still wasn't any radiation. We still had power too. Miracles do happen.

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About Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans:

Ongoing investigation

Meanwhile, Memorial is awaiting the results of an ongoing investigation of three area hospitals by State Attorney General Charles Foti over allegations that critically ill patients were euthanized during the chaotic days after Hurricane Katrina at Memorial.

Although Campanini emphasized that "Memorial and Tenet are not targets of the investigation," physicians working as independent contractors at Memorial may be implicated.

"We are assisting with the investigation," said Campanini. "It doesn't mean we're cleared ... but we have been informed from inside the attorney general's office that we are not targets." Spokeswoman Kris Wartelle in Foti's office confirmed physicians working at Memorial are being investigated but Memorial itself is not.

Wartelle also said the other two area hospitals are under investigation but those allegations do not include euthanasia. Lindy Boggs Medical Center on North Jefferson Davis Parkway is under investigation but Wartelle would not disclose the third facility.

The investigation's damage to Memorial's reputation has yet to be determined.

"The worst thing you can have is what's happening now – a pending investigation. You just have to wait it out. If you do something else, it demonstrates anxiety."

Kristie Kuhl, vice president of communications for Makovsky and Co., a New York-based public relations agency specializing in the health care industry, said Memorial should be able to regain patient confidence regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

"People say Americans have short memories. I disagree – we just are willing to forgive if someone wants to make amends," she said. "Even if the investigation proves that nothing inappropriate occurred, (the staff at Memorial) will have to be proving themselves every day."

I think that's Bull...that the attorney general is accusing the lady doctor and 2 or 3 nurses of killing their patients. I wasn't there and don't know the full story. I believe in my heart that the medical staff at Memorial did the best they could under the circumstances. Hell. Let's charge Brownie with murder while we're at it.

And again, I sorry if my comment in my previous story offended anyone.

◦

BTW, my ghost died in the last story so I had to hire a new ghostwriter. Dick and Dave were working on the 24th, down below. Chris had the day off and Lance and Elvia were out of town. Ron and Linda had spent Thanksgiving weekend with her dad and were stuck in Newport Beach. And, I hadn't learned any Spanish since the last story. What's more, it isn't that far to the Muslims living in LA. I even have a problem with Dr. J, he's mad at Bush and calling him a liar. I suspect it's because he's originally from Iran. I haven't had a doctor with anything but a foreign name in years. They are, however, very good doctors.

Update: I finally found out why my doctors are mostly foreigners. We sent all of our doctors to Vietnam and the foreign doctors came here and set up great practices. I'm here to tell you that my 'foreign' doctors are head and shoulders above my American doctors. My personal doctor is an Iranian, the neurosurgeon who repaired my spine is an Iranian, the surgeon who did my Whipple Procedure is Pilipino.

The concept of sheltering in place assumes you don't have access to a basement. To do it, you'll need a stack of bath towels, a roll of plastic sheeting and a few rows of duct tape. You seal all windows and doors with plastic and duct tape with a wet towel at the bottom to allow air exchange. You then shelter in the center of your home. You also begin the KIO₃ immediately and take it for at least 14 days.

If you get a lot of fallout, you may get some radiation exposure but hopefully not a fatal dose. The KIO₃ is very important and MedicalCorps.org has it for a reasonable price as does Frugal. The plastic will keep the radioactive particles out of your home. KI4U has KI and it's a little more expensive. I was asked where I got the CO₂ scrubber and the answer is USS, they sell them. If you have at least 100ft² per person, you may not need one. Contact Sharon Packer for details.

My next advice is, if you live in Kalifornia, MOVE BACK TO THE US. Kalifornia has ~38 million people, very restrictive laws plus border guards on all border portals except the Mexican border. Surely you've seen *The Grapes of Wrath*. One other point before the ghost writer resumes, all of the medical information I offer has generally been written by medical professionals or is based on my own experience, I take a lot of pills.

The premise in this story is that the Crusades resume, this time on European and American soil. It's possible, if somewhat unlikely. Offhand, I assume the other side, especially in Kalifornia, is better armed than we are.

◦

“Did you get Patti squared away?”

“Yes, she’s got the house sealed and gave me a radio and a charger stand. She says she only has enough food for a couple of weeks and couldn’t get into any of the grocery stores because of the lines. She hasn’t heard from Chris and the phone lines to Hollywood are down.”

“If we do get radiation, I have 2 of those cheap plastic ponchos and dust masks. We should be able to work something out. Your mother and I made out good at the two guns stores so you might want to take her my .22 auto. On second thought, I’ll take it and show her how to use it. Are we sealed up?”

“Un huh.”

“The Coriolis effect caused by the rotation of the Earth is responsible for the direction of rotation of low pressure areas. In general, lows flow counterclockwise in the Northern hemisphere and high pressure areas clockwise. If we’re on the front edge of a low, the winds are out of the south and out of the north on the back edge; and, if we’re on the front edge of a high they’re out of the north and the back edge out of the south. I hope we don’t lose TV, channel 3 can keep us up on the weather.”

“What happens now?”

“That depends on chaos theory which I never understood it, so I can’t really tell you. If the winds shift, we could get a dose of radiation. If we lose utilities, we can generate electricity for the appliances and cook on the Coleman stoves, we’ve done it before. We’re about 75 miles line of sight from downtown LA. The average wind speed is about 10-15 miles per hour and is higher in the afternoon than the morning. Meanwhile we stay inside and watch the survey meters. We should fill the bathtub in case we lose water. There are two new trash cans in the garage we can also fill with water. I checked and the internet is down, probably because it connects through LA.”

o

*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.
Among a people generally corrupt liberty cannot long exist. – Edmund Burke*

Yes I watched the movie *Tears of the Sun*, twice. One of the actresses in the movie was the daughter of the former Prime Minister of Ghana. Anyway, the wind direction slowly changed from the north to the west. According to the fallout monitor on FAS.org, we were far enough north of LA that a west wind would produce any fallout in Palmdale. That assumed a 10kT bomb, with a 10mT bomb, all bets were off. According to the calculator, we’d get ~25REM. That tunnel they found in San Diego was certainly big enough to pass a 10mT bomb through. I found it curious that it had a concrete floor. Read the news!

The papers had extensive coverage in September about the Ramadan Threat. It was clear that Islam wasn’t just angry with Christianity. They threatened to attack the entire

world and convert us. I hoped I had enough ammo, I don't plan to convert to anything, forgive me, but I like being a Methodist. The 1st Amendment to the Constitution guarantees: Freedom of speech, religion, press, petition and assembly. Geraldo is lucky, I can't see 600 yards.

"Are we clicking yet?"

"No, maybe we won't get any radiation, Dad."

"Maybe not, but that doesn't keep me from being pissed. The internet is down; I have a RIGHT to surf the world wide web."

"No, that's a privilege."

"It's wrong that I can't and the opposite of wrong is right, so I have a right."

With that kind of logic, I could sell ice cubes to Eskimos. It didn't matter, I hate spinach. What can you do to prevent E. coli O157:H7 infection?

Cook all ground beef and hamburger thoroughly. Because ground beef can turn brown before disease-causing bacteria are killed, use a digital instant-read meat thermometer to ensure thorough cooking. Ground beef should be cooked until a thermometer inserted into several parts of the patty, including the thickest part, reads at least 160° F. Persons who cook ground beef without using a thermometer can decrease their risk of illness by not eating ground beef patties that are still pink in the middle.

If you are served an undercooked hamburger or other ground beef product in a restaurant, send it back for further cooking. You may want to ask for a new bun and a clean plate, too.

Avoid spreading harmful bacteria in your kitchen. Keep raw meat separate from ready-to-eat foods. Wash hands, counters, and utensils with hot soapy water after they touch raw meat. Never place cooked hamburgers or ground beef on the unwashed plate that held raw patties. Wash meat thermometers in between tests of patties that require further cooking.

Drink only pasteurized milk, juice, or cider. Commercial juice with an extended shelf-life that is sold at room temperature (e.g. juice in cardboard boxes, vacuum sealed juice in glass containers) has been pasteurized, although this is generally not indicated on the label. Juice concentrates are also heated sufficiently to kill pathogens.

Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly, especially those that will not be cooked. Children under 5 years of age, immunocompromised persons, and the elderly should avoid eating alfalfa sprouts until their safety can be assured. Methods to decontaminate alfalfa seeds and sprouts are being investigated.

Drink municipal water that has been treated with chlorine or other effective disinfectants. Avoid swallowing lake or pool water while swimming.

Make sure that persons with diarrhea, especially children, wash their hands carefully with soap after bowel movements to reduce the risk of spreading infection, and that persons wash hands after changing soiled diapers. Anyone with a diarrheal illness should avoid swimming in public pools or lakes, sharing baths with others, and preparing food for others. It's a bacteria folks, Dial Anti-bacterial soap works; use it to wash your hands.

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I spent my time loading magazines. 20 round magazines for the M1A and Mini-14 and 8 round magazines for the PT1911 .45. For the duration, I seceded from Kalifornia, I just didn't tell anyone. I decided that I'd only load 00 in the shotgun meaning you could point it and didn't have to aim it.

We didn't get out and had no idea of who had made it home. The radio cracked and Chris said that Dave was home but he hadn't seen Dick or Lance and Elvia. I asked him if they were ok and he said that they were getting low on food. I told him that there wasn't any noticeable radiation so he should come over and get what he needed, I'd open the garage door.

The New Crusades – Chapter 5

“Cripes, you really stocked up.”

“Sharon got that money and we were very tired of not having a choice about what we eat, Chris. She bought the freezer and stocked it plus put two carloads of food on the shelves.”

“Looks more like two pickup loads.”

“They used Amy’s SUV and folded the seats down. Do you know what you need?”

“Patti gave me a list. Apparently Sharon showed her what you had.”

“Help yourself and replace it when you can, I have a bad feeling about this.”

“What do you mean?”

“In the minds of some Muslims, the Crusades never ended even though they basically won. Anyone who doesn’t adopt Islam is an infidel. I don’t see how we can retaliate against terrorists, only the sponsoring nations. If it was al Qaeda, they may not have had any sponsors, hence there’s no one to punish. We have a lot of Muslims in this country and some of them might be willing to answer a call to Jihad. If I were you, I’d buy a couple of firearms, just in case.”

“You know better than that, I wouldn’t dare have firearms with Daniel around.”

“Sure you could, lock them in a cabinet. You have to buy a lock for the guns when you buy them to prevent children from using them. Sharon and I went shopping the day of the attacks and got very lucky. All I need now is a .22 rifle.”

Palmdale hadn’t shut down for long. When it became apparent that the bomb in LA was too small to produce significant fallout this far away, business firms began to reopen. When Santa Fe was open I went to check on the check.

“You didn’t have any trouble with the check did you?”

“No. It cleared once that bank was open. What can I do for you today?”

“I’d like a .22 rifle. I don’t really care for the 10/22, what do you have in lever action?”

“Marlin 39A is the only lever action .22 I have, \$399.”

“Ok, give me the 4473.”

“How much ammo do you need?”

“About 20 bricks, I’ll buy that at Wal-Mart.”

“How did the Mini-14 work out?”

“Haven’t fired it. I have a source for different magazines made by PMI and may get some of those.”

“Their 30 round magazines are pretty good. I used to carry them way back when.”

“You don’t carry them now for cops?”

“I didn’t say that. Oh, that’s right, I sold you the genuine Ruger 20 round mags didn’t I?”

“You did. How much for the 30 round mags?”

“Steel or polymer?”

“Steel.”

“\$35, each.”

“Do you have 14?”

“Do you have \$490, cash?”

“The wife gave me enough to buy a rifle, the .22 ammo and magazines if I could find them, I can pay cash.”

“\$962.34.”

“Do you have another case of .223?”

“Yep. Your total is \$1,178.84.”

“Damn. Ok. Sharon, would you please pay the man?”

“Why do you need 14 30 round magazines?”

“The vest holds 12 plus one in the rifle and one in the stock magazine holder.”

“What about those magazines you already have?”

“They’re backups.”

“Why didn’t you buy more magazines for the M1A from Ammoman?”

“Shh. I asked you if you had \$325 but you didn’t.”

“I have South African 7.62. \$325 a case.”

“How many rounds?”

“1,260, 9 battle packs in the can. That would come to \$1,530.66 I have some of those T57 mags, you know.”

“How much?”

“\$15 each. Want some?”

“Ten?”

“\$1,693.03.”

I figured he probably bought them the same place I bought mine. Strange, it was a seller’s market and he wasn’t particularly gouging. I had started out to buy a .22 rifle and had spent almost \$1,700 and still didn’t have 20 bricks of .22LR. I also needed red dot sights for the Mini-14 and the M1A. I figured that would have to wait. Not. Sharon was in a spending mood; she bought 2 Bushnell 73-0135 trophy riflescopes and had Sandy install them. She also bought 10 bricks of hyper velocity, 5 bricks of high velocity solid point and 5 bricks of high velocity hollow point. When she was done, she looked me in the eye and said one word, “Enough.”

When Costco opened back up, Patti and Sharon went shopping. Patti replaced everything Chris had taken and Sharon replaced everything we had used, on the first trip. They went back and each reloaded the SUVs, Patti has a Saturn SUV. I was busy clearing more shelves in the garage. What I would have rather been doing was excavating under the slab and installing shoring, lots of shoring.

When I had the shelves empty, Sharon proceeded to refill them. Let me tell you fellas, once you get your wife converted, watch out, she may go nuts!

“Clear 2 more shelves, please.”

“Two shelf assemblies or two shelves?”

“Two shelves, Patti and I are going to run over to Smart and Final.”

Yeah, right, I cleared two shelf assemblies; I needed someplace to store the ammo too. I sort of assumed I had enough under the circumstances, 4,140 rounds of 7.62, 2,000 rounds of 5.56, 500 rounds of 12 gauge, 10,000 rounds of .22LR and 1,000 rounds of

Gold Dot .45, 230gr 1,000 rounds of Lawman 230gr plus 4 boxes of leftover .32 auto from the previous story.

Derek had called and wanted to know if I needed to be rescued. I told him we were fine unless he wanted to help me undermine the slab. He declined, stating that he expected to be called up at any moment for Homeland Security.

“You’re a little late, kid, the terrorists already attacked.”

“Hey, I just got home, don’t blame me Dad. This isn’t over by a long shot. What about that rifle you talked about buying me?”

“I’ll ask Sharon to send you a check, did you get the job with the Post Office in Mountain Home?”

“Yep. If you’ll send the price of the rifle, I handle the rest.”

“I’ll ask her to round it to \$1,200. Try to buy some of the South African surplus, if you can find it. I have 27 battle packs plus what’s in the magazines.”

“What are you using for sights?”

“Bushnell 73-0135 trophy riflescope. They have red dot, green dot and 4 types of cross hairs.”

“Have you actually sighted the rifles in?”

“No, but I’ll do it soon.”

“What is the situation in Palmdale?”

“You’re not coming for Christmas?”

“We are if I’m not activated. I’ll have to let you know.”

“Good, I have a bunch of knives for you to sharpen.”

“It’s good to know I’m good for something.”

“I didn’t mean it that way. I’m letting you take Rambo III back with you. I only need 2 hunting knives sharpened.”

“What?”

“Rambo I and my Explorer.”

“Do you think SeaWorld will still be open, we have free tickets?”

“I have no idea, check their website. I don’t have internet because it goes through LA.”

“Anheuser-Busch provided free tickets. Throughout 2006, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch’s SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission.”

“Let me know what you find out, ok? I may try to get someone to help me dig under that slab, I haven’t decided. If we won’t get attacked again with nuclear weapons, I may not. What do you think, are we going to get attacked again?”

“I don’t know Dad. Are there any Muslims in your area?”

“Are you trying to be funny? Southern Kalifornia has a huge Muslim population and Los Angeles has the third largest Jewish population in the US. It depends on who you ask, there are anywhere from 1 million to 10 million Muslims in the US and anywhere from 6 million to 10 million Jews.”

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Medscape just put out a warning about NSAIDs and COX-2 Inhibitors. Yes, that included Celecoxib oral (Celebrex). I warned you when they said Vioxx was bad for you. Celebrex doubles your chance for a heart attack.

◦

B’nai Elim (Sons of the Mighty) is a Jewish organization founded in 2006 by the former leadership of Rabbi Meir Kahane’s Jewish Defense League. This group is a Kahanist organization. B’nai Elim has 35 active chapters in the US. The Jewish Defense League (JDL) is a militant Jewish organization whose goal is to protect Jewish people and property from anti-Semitism. The FBI considers the organization to be a “right-wing terrorist group.” So, you see, we have someone on OUR side.

On 12Dec01, Irv Rubin, JDL International Chairman, and Earl Krugel, a member of the organization, were charged with conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism. Authorities claimed that the two planned attacks on Arab-American Congressman Darrell Issa’s office, and on the King Fahd Mosque in Culver City, Kalifornia.

Rubin maintained that he was innocent, and was reportedly eager to wage a vigorous court battle in his defense. On 4Nov02, at the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, Kalifornia, Rubin fell 18 feet to the concrete floor below. He was in a coma for 10 days before dying on 13Nov. The incident has been ruled a suicide, though some of Rubin’s supporters have alleged murder.

On 4Feb03, Earl Krugel pled guilty to conspiracy and weapons charges stemming from the terrorist plot, and was expected to serve up to 20 years in prison. He was murdered by another inmate while at the Federal Correctional Institution in north Phoenix, Arizona on 4Nov05.

I planned to keep that in mind if we had trouble with anyone who jockeyed camels. I didn't have their number, but it was probably in Beverly Hills. It's stupid, you know, I told you about the article I read: Three Faiths, One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam. The article discussed the TV Special broadcast on Public TV, but I can't remember where I read it, that was 2 stories back and a bit before the world went to hell.

We had a war on our hands, a war not on terror but on terrorists and they were operating in Europe and the US. Maybe they brought their bombs into the US through the tunnel that was found in San Diego, who needs a tunnel with a concrete floor 6' wide and 12' high just to haul drugs? I'd heard from someone that it had been verified that at least one bomb and the operator were in the US. Did Osama really expect us to convert to Islam to avoid the bomb? It wouldn't have matter if we did switch, al Qaeda killed a whole lot of Muslims in Iraq.

By the 24th of November when they bombed us, they had bombed major cities all over the world, but not with the nuclear bombs. Those were special and they saved what they had for us. Sure they did damage, you could use the blast mapper on FAS.org and see the effects of 10kT bombs on the cities where they were set off. I couldn't because I didn't have internet. Back on Monday, September 25th, I went to a higher speed connection which guaranteed a download rate of 1.5mbs. Did you ever know the phone company to give discounts if you didn't have service? Me neither.

"Did we get much from Iowa this month?"

"A fair amount, but I spent it buying groceries and getting caught up on bills. Why? What do you want to buy now?"

"Ammo."

"You have enough ammo. You haven't even sighted in the guns."

"I was waiting for Ron and Linda to get back."

"If they were coming back, they'd be back by now. You're going to have to find someone else to take you shooting."

"Can I take the car and drive over there?"

"No, you don't have a license. I'll drive if you give me a few minutes to finish what I'm doing."

“What are you doing?”

“Making homemade noodles, we’re going to have beef and noodles for supper. I got a cutter at Smart and Final. I have to let them dry a little before I cut them up, I’ll take you then.”

“I’ll be in the office.”

I was sitting at my computer when the phone rang. It didn’t dawn on me that we might have internet service back, but the line that rang was line 2, the internet line. I answered the phone because I had the only phone in the house that could access that line.

“This is AT&T. We calling to tell you your internet connection is restored.”

It was a recording or I’d have given them a few piece of my mind. I checked the router and all the lights were red. I unplugged the router and waited 60 seconds before I plugged it in. Two minutes later, I had an internet connection. I immediately checked my mail, I had 20 messages and 433 pieces of junk mail in my Bulk folder. I went through them 25 messages one at a time, sometimes mail with attachments gets routed to the Bulk mail folder. I ended up with 15 messages in the bulk folder that were real mail and I clicked on Outlook Express to download the 35 messages.

“Gar-Bear,

We’re stuck in Newport and won’t be back until after Christmas.

Ron”

“Sharon, I don’t have to go, Ron and Linda won’t be back until after Christmas.”

“How do you know?”

“I got an email. He said they were stuck in Newport.”

“If you’ve got mail, I’ve got mail.”

“Just don’t download any junk mail, you’ll get a virus and I don’t know if Symantec is online to download the latest virus table.”

The reason she was making noodles was because they had eggs on sale 3 18-count trays of large eggs for \$5. I assume she wanted to use some of them up before they got old. She had a chuck roast, cut into chunks, simmering on the stove. She’d rolled the noodles thin, but when they hit the hot water, they’d thicken. Herb’s Aunt Lottie had taught her how to make egg noodles. I told her I’d go inventory the food in the garage and see if she missed anything.

My thought at the time was those 10 million Muslims in the US might not all be good Americans and there was enough of them that they could start a guerilla war. Medicare will only buy you one wheelchair and since I had one there was no way I could order a combat (tactical) wheelchair from Kansas. You thought I was making a joke? No way, they build one that will haul 600 pounds. While I was in the garage going through the food, it occurred to me that I didn't have to sight the rifle in, they were bore sighted and would only require minor adjustments, assuming she'd done the bore sighting right.

In all likelihood, I'd never leave the housing tract and that meant the range would be under 200 meters. I could adjust the sight on the fly. I was fairly sure I could make the adjustments if I had to fire the rifles. It might not matter anyway, if the barrel on the Mini-14 got hot, it generally lost accuracy.

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On Friday, December 15th, Lance and Elvia came home. I walked over and asked if he'd been caught in LA by the bombing.

"Actually we were on vacation on November 24th."

"We collected your papers, they're in the usual place on top of the china cabinet. We didn't lose power so you shouldn't have lost any food."

"I put in a residential standby generator, Gary, I wasn't worried about that. I come over for the papers later."

"Buy a new firearm?"

"I bought a couple, the civilian versions of the M14 and M16. We were in Flagstaff. The guns you can buy over there are very different what you can buy here."

"I know. Did you get the regular military magazines?"

"I got 10 for each rifle and some military surplus ammo. Do you know anything about the South African surplus?"

"I have over 4,000 rounds, it's supposed to be the best. Did you get the Radway 5.56?"

"Yes, that's what the guy in the store recommended. He also recommended Gold Dot 124gr +P for my 9mm pistol."

"We haven't had any trouble yet, but I've been keeping an eye on the neighborhood. When you were in Vietnam, did you cross train on Soviet weapons?"

“We had to. I was an A Team Leader for a while and my weapons specialist insisted we learn the weapons the Viet Cong and NVA were using.”

“When you come by to pick up your papers, I’ll show you what I have and we can discuss the guerilla war I think the Muslims might wage.”

“They didn’t deliver papers for a few days until they were sure we wouldn’t get any radiation up here. Come see my new firearms.”

“Where do you keep them?”

“In my office. I have the M1A the same as you bought plus a Mini-14, a shotgun and two pistols.”

“Where did you get the 20 round magazines for the rifle?”

“10 came from New Jersey and 10 from a store here in Palmdale, he thought I was a cop.”

“I see both 20 and 30 round magazines for your .223.”

“Yeah, the 20 round were manufactured by Ruger and the 30 round by PMI. I put red dot sights on them.”

“Where did you get those?”

“High Desert Storm, on Avenue Q just west of 20th St. on the north side of the street.”

“Did you sight them in?”

“No, I was waiting for Ron to get back.”

“Where do you go?”

“Angeles Crest Highway, there are several locations there, but the Forest Service closed the ranges.”

“Let me have the gun store install the sights and we’ll go shoot and fine tune them. Are the grocery stores open?”

“Most of them but Sharon said they were pretty well picked over. What kind of generator did you buy?”

“Onan RS 20000 with a 200 amp transfer switch.”

“Natural gas or propane?”

“Propane, I put in a 1,000 gallon tank and bought jets for all of the appliances.”

“All we have is a 7kw portable that runs on gas.”

“Do you have spare gas?”

“3 drums.

There is a historically fairly predictable pattern to the unfolding strategies and views of great wars. They often start with a morally ambiguous view of the enemy, a more limited conception of the war’s magnitude and a restrained application of violent tactics.

Eventually, moral clarity is obtained, war objectives expand – often to grandiosity, and tactics become ferocious. For example at the start of our Civil War in 1861 at the Battle of First Manassas, spectators came out by carriage with picnic lunches to observe the event. By 1865, Gen. Sherman executed a campaign of civilian terror and matériel obliteration in his march to the sea. Likewise, the war started with the purpose of saving the union, but morally expanded to end slavery – north and south.

World War II started out in Europe first with the phony war and mutual thoughts of a negotiated peace, then with careful bombing (Hitler initially ordered that London not be bombed) and ended with the firebombing of Dresden and Tokyo and the atomic obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even during his war on the Jews, as late as 1940, Hitler was thinking of deporting German Jews to Madagascar, and ended in rounding up Jews throughout Europe and perpetrating genocide in industrially designed death camps (although some historians believe the Madagascar plan may always have been a subterfuge for the Final Solution.)

Today, the West’s struggle to resist radical Islamic aggression (both cultural and terrorist) is still in that early phase of moral confusion and limited tactics. Thus we continue to debate the ethical merits of minor intrusions into American civil liberties (such as NSA surveillance of some phone calls from foreign suspects), and even serious and patriotic men such as Sen. John McCain and Gen. Colin Powell challenge the need to permit psychologically rough – but nonviolent – interrogation of captured terrorists.

But there are some signs that the early stage of moral confusion is beginning to give way to greater clarity. Last week, two towering intellects – Pope Benedict XVI and Henry Kissinger – began to offer clarity. On Tuesday the pope gave his now famous, but still misunderstood, lecture at the University of Regensburg, and on Wednesday Mr. Kissinger published in The Washington Post a half page seminal article on the risk of civilizational war.

Any fair and careful reading of the pope’s lecture must conclude that it was not an inadvertent insult to Islam. Rather it was a firm assertion that the Judeo-Christian God acts in accordance with reason (In the beginning was the logos – word and reason.), and

thus Christians and Jews can undertake a rational debate about the morality of violence. He quotes, now famously, Emperor Manuel II's assertion in 1391 that Islam spreads its faith through violence – which, he says, is unreasonable and incompatible with the nature of God. He then cites an 11th-century Arab Muslim theologian, Ibn Hazn, who argued that Allah is transcendent of reason.

After criticizing secular Christians for not giving reason its proper place in understanding faith and God, he concludes his lecture by again quoting the Byzantine Emperor Manuel II on his same criticism of Islam. Then the pope finishes his lecture with the following words: “It is to this great logos, to this breadth of reason, that we invite our partners in the dialogue of cultures. To rediscover it constantly is the great task of the university.”

In other words, he is inviting Islam to explain whether its God is like ours – inherently understandable by reason (and thus, is their God opposed to violence, as ours is?)

He was also, I strongly suspect, speaking to his own flock, both to return to proper Christianity and to consider the nature of Islam. And, I suspect, the pope did not inadvertently quote the now inflammatory passage. If he had not included that quote, the world would not now be debating his lecture. While the pope surely did not want to see violence, he just as surely wanted to engage the world in this vital search for clarity.

While not the pope, Mr. Kissinger is the world's premier practitioner and scholar of real politic. So, it is consequential that in his article last week he warned the world that “we are witnessing a carefully conceived assault, not isolated terrorist attacks, on the international system of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. The creation of organizations such as Hezbollah and al Qaeda symbolizes the fact that transnational loyalties are replacing national ones. The driving force behind this challenge is the jihadist conviction that it is the existing order that is illegitimate.”

He went on to warn that “The debate sparked by the Iraq war over American rashness vs. European escapism is dwarfed by what the world now faces...the common danger of a wider war merging into a war of civilizations against the backdrop of a nuclear-armed Middle East...We now know that we face the imperative of building a new world order or potential global catastrophe.”

These are shocking words coming from the verbally impeccably careful diplomatist.

So, within 24 hours the pope raises the question whether Islam is inherently violent and unreasonable, while Henry Kissinger warns of a possibly emerging nuclear clash of civilizations.

Moral clarity, anyone? New World Order?

The New Crusades – Chapter 6

The US invasion of Iraq was among the “dumbest moves of all time” that ranks with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and the German invasion of Russia, billionaire philanthropist Ted Turner said Tuesday. That was the pot calling the kettle black; Turner is the ex-husband of Hanoi Jane. The founder of CNN and unabashed internationalist also defended the right of Iran to have nuclear weapons and the effectiveness of the United Nations and, in a jocular mood, advocated banning men from elective office worldwide in a Reuters Newsmaker appearance.

Negotiations Must Go Beyond the Nuclear Threat to Broader Issues

By Henry A. Kissinger

The world's attention is focused on the fighting in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, but the context leads inevitably back to Iran. Unfortunately, the diplomacy dealing with that issue is constantly outstripped by events. While explosives are raining on Lebanese and Israeli towns and Israel reclaims portions of Gaza, the proposal to Iran in May by the so-called Six (the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China) for negotiations on its nuclear weapons program still awaits an answer. It's possible that Tehran reads the almost pleading tone of some communications addressed to it as a sign of weakness and irresolution. Or perhaps the violence in Lebanon has produced second thoughts among the mullahs about the risks of courting and triggering crisis. However the tea leaves are read, the current Near Eastern upheaval could become a turning point. Iran may come to appreciate the law of unintended consequences. For their part, the Six can no longer avoid dealing with the twin challenges that Iran poses. On the one hand, the quest for nuclear weapons represents Iran's reach for modernity via the power symbol of the modern state; at the same time, this claim is put forward by a fervent kind of religious extremism that has kept the Muslim Middle East unmodernized for centuries. This conundrum can be solved without conflict only if Iran adopts a modernism consistent with international order and a view of Islam compatible with peaceful coexistence.

Heretofore the Six have been vague about their response to an Iranian refusal to negotiate, except for unspecific threats of sanctions through the United Nations Security Council. But if a deadlock between strained forbearance by the Six and taunting invective from the Iranian president leads to de facto acquiescence in the Iranian nuclear program, prospects for multilateral international order will dim everywhere. If the permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany are unable jointly to achieve goals to which they have publicly committed themselves, every country, especially those composing the Six, will face growing threats, be they increased domestic pressure from radical Islamic groups, terrorist acts or the nearly inevitable conflagrations sparked by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The analogy of such a disaster is not Munich, when the democracies yielded the German-speaking part of Czechoslovakia to Hitler, but the response when Mussolini invaded Abyssinia. At Munich, the democracies thought that Hitler's demands were essential-

ly justified by the principle of self-determination; they were repelled mostly by his methods. In the Abyssinian crisis, the nature of the challenge was uncontested. By a vast majority, the League of Nations voted to treat the Italian adventure as aggression and to impose sanctions. But they recoiled before the consequences of their insight and rejected an oil embargo, which Italy would have been unable to overcome. The league never recovered from that debacle. If the six-nation forums dealing with Iran and North Korea suffer comparable failures, the consequence will be a world of unchecked proliferation, not controlled by either governing principles or functioning institutions.

A modern, strong, peaceful Iran could become a pillar of stability and progress in the region. This cannot happen unless Iran's leaders decide whether they are representing a cause or a nation – whether their basic motivation is crusading or international cooperation. The goal of the diplomacy of the Six should be to oblige Iran to confront this choice.

Diplomacy never operates in a vacuum. It persuades not by the eloquence of its practitioners but by assembling a balance of incentives and risks. Clausewitz's famous dictum that war is a continuation of diplomacy by other means defines both the challenge and the limits of diplomacy. War can impose submission; diplomacy needs to evoke consensus. Military success enables the victor in war to prescribe, at least for an interim period. Diplomatic success occurs when the principal parties are substantially satisfied; it creates – or should strive to create – common purposes, at least regarding the subject matter of the negotiation; otherwise no agreement lasts very long. The risk of war lies in exceeding objective limits; the bane of diplomacy is to substitute process for purpose. Diplomacy should not be confused with glibness. It is not an oratorical but a conceptual exercise. When it postures for domestic audiences, radical challenges are encouraged rather than overcome.

It is often asserted that what is needed in relation to Iran is a diplomacy comparable to that which, in the 1970s, moved China from hostility to cooperation with the United States. But China was not persuaded by skillful diplomacy to enter this process. Rather, China was brought, by a decade of escalating conflict with the Soviet Union, to a conviction that the threat to its security came less from capitalist America than from the growing concentration of Soviet forces on its northern borders. Clashes of Soviet and Chinese military forces along the Ussuri River accelerated Beijing's retreat from the Soviet alliance.

The contribution of American diplomacy was to understand the significance of these events and to act on that knowledge. The Nixon administration did not convince China that it needed to change its priorities. Its role was to convince China that implementing its strategic necessities was safe and would enhance China's long-term prospects. It did so by concentrating the diplomatic dialogue on fundamental geopolitical objectives, while keeping some contentious items in abeyance. The Shanghai Communique of 1972, the first Sino-US communique, symbolized this process. Contrary to established usage, it listed a series of continuing disagreements as a prelude to the key common

objective of preventing hegemonic aspirations of unnamed third parties – clearly implying the Soviet Union.

The challenge of the Iranian negotiation is far more complex. For two years before the opening to China, the two sides had engaged in subtle, reciprocal, symbolic and diplomatic actions to convey their intentions. In the process, they had tacitly achieved a parallel understanding of the international situation, and China opted for seeking to live in a cooperative world.

Nothing like that has occurred between Iran and the United States. There is not even an approximation of a comparable world view. Iran has reacted to the American offer to enter negotiations with taunts, and has inflamed tensions in the region. Even if the Hezbollah raids from Lebanon into Israel and the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers were not planned in Tehran, they would not have occurred had their perpetrators thought them inconsistent with Iranian strategy. In short, Iran has not yet made the choice of the world it seeks – or it has made the wrong choice from the point of view of international stability. The crisis in Lebanon could mark a watershed if it confers a sense of urgency to the diplomacy of the Six and a note of realism to the attitudes in Tehran.

Up to now Iran has been playing for time. The mullahs apparently seek to accumulate as much nuclear capability as possible so that, even were they to suspend enrichment, they would be in a position to use the threat of resuming their weapons effort as a means to enhance their clout in the region.

Given the pace of technology, patience can easily turn into evasion. The Six will have to decide how serious they will be in insisting on their convictions. Specifically, the Six will have to be prepared to act decisively before the process of technology makes the objective of stopping uranium enrichment irrelevant. Well before that point is reached, sanctions will have to be agreed on. To be effective, they must be comprehensive; halfhearted, symbolic measures combine the disadvantage of every course of action. Interallied consultations must avoid the hesitation that the League of Nations conveyed over Abyssinia. We must learn from the North Korean negotiations not to engage in a process involving long pauses to settle disagreements within the administration and within the negotiating group, while the other side adds to its nuclear potential. There is equal need, on the part of America's partners, for decisions permitting them to pursue a parallel course.

A suspension of enrichment of uranium should not be the end of the process. A next step should be the elaboration of a global system of nuclear enrichment to take place in designated centers around the world under international control – as proposed for Iran by Russia. This would ease implications of discrimination against Iran and establish a pattern for the development of nuclear energy without a crisis with each entrant into the nuclear field.

President Bush has announced America's willingness to participate in the discussions of the Six with Iran to prevent emergence of an Iranian nuclear weapons program. But it

will not be possible to draw a line between nuclear negotiations and a comprehensive review of Iran's overall relations to the rest of the world.

The legacy of the hostage crisis, the decades of isolation and the messianic aspect of the Iranian regime represent huge obstacles to such a diplomacy. If Tehran insists on combining the Persian imperial tradition with contemporary Islamic fervor, then a collision with America – and, indeed, with its negotiating partners of the Six – is unavoidable. Iran simply cannot be permitted to fulfill a dream of imperial rule in a region of such importance to the rest of the world.

At the same time, an Iran concentrating on the development of the talents of its people and the resources of its country should have nothing to fear from the United States. Hard as it is to imagine that Iran, under its present president, will participate in an effort that would require it to abandon its terrorist activities or its support for such instruments as Hezbollah, the recognition of this fact should emerge from the process of negotiation rather than being the basis for a refusal to negotiate. Such an approach would imply the redefinition of the objective of regime change, providing an opportunity for a genuine change in direction by Iran, whoever is in power.

It is important to express such a policy in precise objectives capable of transparent verification. A geopolitical dialogue is not a substitute for an early solution of the nuclear enrichment crisis. That must be addressed separately, rapidly and firmly. But a great deal depends on whether a strong stand on that issue is understood as the first step in the broader invitation to Iran to return to the wider world.

In the end, the United States must be prepared to vindicate its efforts to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapons program. For that reason, America has an obligation to explore every honorable alternative.

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Let's be honest here, all they needed was an excuse. They didn't even need patience; it didn't take long for someone to stick their foot in their mouth. A few cartoons were enough for media attention for weeks and got more people killed, usually Muslims. Newt was right in agreeing with Osama, this most certainly was WW III. After the Mid-term elections last month, I started to get the impression that George might order troop reductions. At this point in time, he really was a lame duck president, though technically not for 2 more years.

I guess they're going to have to put New Orleans on hold; we have 7 cities that need to be cleaned up. No doubt, they'd use the military and civilian contractors to do that. But wait, most of our military is overseas. I'll bet George will overrule Donald and bring them home. What we really need is a good dose of isolationism. We could seal our borders and issue weapons to the JDL and B'nai Elim and let them solve our problem.

Reading that piece by Henry put me off; it was dryer than a box of soda crackers. Henry has a long list of bona fides:

- National Security Council
- Council on Foreign Relations
- Trilateral Commission
- Blindenberg Group
- Bohemian Grove
- Realism in international relations
- Realpolitik

I'll take 'Bombs Away' LeMay any day over Henry. That list is all about the New World Order. I'm just naturally a pacifist, heehee. Note to self: Add carton of salt to first aid kit so you can render first aid to the people you have to shoot. Did I tell you we have ~600,000 Persians in the US?

One thing I can't tell you is when the Muslims started hating the Jews. It must go way back, was it before or after WW II? One Answer: The primary cause of the hostility has a modern origin. After World War II, when the United Nations gave a portion of the land of Israel to the Jewish people, the land was at that time primarily inhabited by Arabs (the Palestinians). Most Arabs protested vehemently against the nation of Israel occupying that land. Arab nations united and attacked Israel in an attempt to wipe them out of the land – but they were utterly defeated by Israel. Ever since, there has been great hostility between Israel and its Arab neighbors. If you look on a map, Israel has one tiny little sliver of land and is surrounded by much larger Arab nations, i.e. Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Egypt. Arabs will tell you they're not anti-Semitic but rather anti-Zionist.

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Then the question comes up about whether our invading Iraq caused people to be against us. It's a difficult question to answer and no doubt our presence there did inflame passions. Maybe they didn't want a democracy to begin with, did you ever think about that? Lots of people don't want democracy. I've always taken the position that it was a mistake to export it in the first place. But then, I just some crackpot in the PRK, so don't listen to me. I'm not all that bright anyway, living on the San Andreas Fault.

So here we sit in the aftermath of 7 terrorist attacks wondering what to do next. More precisely, we were wondering what would happen next. When you got right down to the quick, there were only 2 veterans I knew of in the housing tract, Lance and me. Lance, quite on his own had gotten into being prepared. I knew that they had more money than we had and could do more than we could, that wasn't the issue. Lance had been in combat while I hadn't. Like most people who had, he didn't like to talk about it. If he was a Green Beret, he was well trained and an officer to boot.

Therefore, if someone were to attack the housing tract, he'd be in charge, whether he wanted to be in charge or not. In addition to the two of us, the most likely person I knew in the tract who might use a firearm to defend us would be Dick. After that came Dave and I didn't know about him. Chris was the back of the pack, a total liberal in so many ways. We had talked and he knew how to use firearms, the question had to be would he.

Lance came over empty handed and asked if I wanted to go shooting. Man, did I ever. I wanted to fine tune the red dot sights on the rifles and the more I thought about it, the more I decided I wanted them sighted in for 150 yards. I can handle metrics, but I was raised on the English measurement and I have trouble switching. 150 yards was ~137 meters, the conversion factors are 0.9144 from yards to meters and 1.0936 from meters to yards. Right or wrong, that was going to be my standard setting for this set of circumstances.

"What range are you going to sight in for?"

"150 yards."

"I thought I'd sight in for 250 yards."

"Your eyes are better than mine, Lance. I should be about dead on for the entrance to the housing tract or even maybe a little over."

"I'll follow your lead then, I hadn't thought about it. Which weapons are you going to sight in?"

"My M1A and my Mini-14. I should shoot all of them just to see how they shoot though, would that be ok?"

"I don't want to spend more than an hour on the range. I wouldn't want to have to fight with one of those rangers."

"I was hoping to sight them each in with as few as 5 shots. After, I thought I'd finish off the magazine just to be sure I had them where I wanted them."

"Do you have a couple pieces of cardboard, say 3' square?"

"I have the new mattress boxes from the grandkids new mattresses."

"Perfect, we take my pickup and cut them up when we get there."

To be perfectly honest, I assumed Lance had some experience with the M14 in Vietnam. Any help I needed with my new rifle should be available. When we arrived at an old shooting range, we cut the targets and he drew an X on them. He paced out 150 paces and held the target up with a couple of 2"x2" stakes. He went first and in 3 shots

he had his M1A sighted in. Three shots later, his AR15 was sighted in. He fired a few more shots with each rifle to confirm his settings then went to change the targets.

“Your turn.”

I took the M1A and managed somehow to get into a prone position. I put the red dot on the spot where the X crossed and fired one shot.

“3” low and 3” left.”

I cranked in a correction and fired a second shot.

“1” left and 1” low, add one click of elevation and 2 clicks of windage.”

My second shot was very close to the X. I fired the remainder of the magazine and decided it was as good as it could get, the problem wasn't the sight, but the shooter. While I put the M1A back in the case and got out the Mini-14, Lance changed the targets. When he got back, I fired 3 rounds from the Mini-14.

“Up one notch in elevation and left 2 notches.”

I made the exact adjustment he recommended and put the next 3 shots in the area of the X about a 2 minute group. That was good as far as I was concerned and I suggested we move up to 100 yards and I'd try the .22. I was close enough so we moved up to 25 yards and tried my shotgun with the 12-pellet 00 buck. It was close enough for government work and we moved to 7 yards to try the .45.

“Could you make me a dot in a clean spot?”

“Hang on... How's that?”

“Perfect, thanks.”

I fired 9 rounds and you wouldn't have been on the receiving end.

“Not bad, Gary. Do you shoot handguns often?”

“Not in 10 years.”

“Are we ready to leave?”

“Are you done?”

“Yes, are you?”

“I suppose we'd better get out of here before the Ranger shows up, huh?”

“Right, quickly.”

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After we got back home, we sat down and cleaned the guns first. Then, I went home and reloaded the magazines I’d used.

“Is everything sighted in?”

“Yes. The big rifles for 150 yards, the .22 for 100 yards and the shotgun works fine at 25 yards, but closer is better.”

“How do you see the sights?”

“Turn them on, put the red dot right where you want the bullet to go and squeeze the trigger. You keep the Mini-14 handy but unloaded. There’s one magazine in the butt stock pouch.”

“What about a handgun?”

“Do you want the .32?”

“Sure.”

“Sharon, Palmdale is kind of an out of the way place even though the population is over 130,000. Odds favor our never needing to use the firearms.”

“If that’s the case, why were we out after the attack buying guns?”

“Better to have them and not need them than to need them and not have them. Are we totally squared away on food?”

“I’d say about 6 months’ worth and as we get more money and the food is available, I’ll keep everything topped off.”

“Lance and Elvia have a big residential standby generator.”

“How big?”

“RS 20000, a big one. They put in a 1,000 gallon tank of propane and he got jets for all of their appliances so I assume that’s the hot water heater, furnace, dryer and kitchen stove.”

“And I suppose you want to put in the same thing.”

“Yes and no. Their home is bigger than ours. I would like to put in an RS 15000, if we could.”

“How much?”

“About \$10 grand. I know we don’t have the money but with all of my medical instruments, I thought maybe Matt could talk the trust into buying one so I wouldn’t have to go without my nebulizer, oxygen, CPAP and recharging my wheelchair.”

“If you can talk him into it, I say go for it. I wouldn’t hold my breath if I were you.”

“Matt, Gary Ott. No, we didn’t get any radiation. Well, I need to put in a standby generator because of my medical conditions. An Onan RS 15000. The price I found was \$9,480 plus another 866.25 for an installation kit and probably some more to get it installed by a licensed electrician. Oh, my neighbor has one because of his medical conditions and he has a 1,000 gallon propane tank. Altogether. Gee I don’t know, what does propane cost? \$12,500? Yes that should be enough; do you think the trust will approve it? We have large Jewish and Muslim populations in Los Angeles, so I don’t know if we’ll have trouble or not. Well, I can get by for a brief time without the oxygen and I only use the nebulizer 4 times a day. Both Sharon and I have CPAPs and I’ve had the wheelchair for over a year now. Yes, I’ll see about getting some bottled oxygen too. You will, thanks.”

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You should have seen Dr. J face when I told him I wanted prescriptions for both Doxycycline and Ciprofloxacin. First he wanted to know why and I explained about Anthrax. He said I didn’t need both drugs for Anthrax and so I mentioned Typhoid. He said I didn’t need both. I said I wanted both, 100 of each. He grumbled but he wrote the prescriptions. He then cautioned me about Doxy. Like Tetracycline, it had an absolute 1 year shelf life. I filled in the blank refill line and now had an Rx for 600 of each of both Doxy and Cipro. It was the only way I could think to get 600 of each pill. I had Sharon checked the Iowa account every day until we had the money. I couldn’t get a RS 15000 because they were on backorder but only for two weeks. We went ahead and put in 1,000 gallons of paid for propane. They delivered and installed the RS 15000. It’s just a good thing it was less expensive than some of the others because the installation fee was beyond belief.

All we needed now was a piece of 1” road plate for my office window about 4’ wide and 9’5” long. You should have heard Dr. J the next month when I told him I mislaid the RX he wrote. He really began to fuss when I handed him my empty Hydrocodone bottle and told him I like that refilled and 2 refills. You have to understand, I had really pissed him off back in August of 2006 when I’d mentioned Bush and he’d gone off about what a liar Bush was. I made it a point to never bring the subject up again. But, we had 300 each of Doxy and Cipro and were working on having 600 of each. If the US were attacked again, it could be anything, nuclear, biological or chemical.

Biological and chemical weapons were the poor man's nuclear weapon. Next month I planned to ask him for a prescription for 1 case of 500ml bags of Ringer's and 24 IV sets. I could take a class at AV College to learn how to establish an IV. I checked and they had a class starting that had an opening for 2 more people. I signed Amy and me up. They started you out in a class and then you went to an artificial arm and finally you got to do the real thing, I did Amy and she did me. Ouch,

Earlier, when we went to see Dr. J, I took him both Amy and my certificates and asked him for an Rx for Ringer's. He went me one better; I got prescriptions for a case each of Ringer's, D5W and Normal Saline. He also wrote a prescription for a defibrillator before I even asked. It was for one of the automatic external ones that even an idiot could operate. I also asked him to call Air Care Medical and tell them I needed a 10 liter oxygen concentrator instead of the 5 liter machine. I didn't know if they were open or not, but Northridge was open so I assumed Van Nuys was too.

The New Crusades – Chapter 7

We had to leave the guns in the car and it made me pretty uneasy going into his office, most of his patients were Persians. While he had his prescription pad out, I asked him to write me prescriptions for all of my drugs and all of Sharon's drugs and give us 11 re-fills, just in case. He had to write 2 separate prescriptions for Xanax, the longest the prescription is good is 6 months. He didn't like it, but he did it. I had a hole card, if he wouldn't, I could see his partner, Dr. E and he'd write anything, or he had so far. I didn't abuse that, I never knew when I might need something special.

I am not a doctor and have nothing more than first aid training in the military back in 1961, except for the class I took at AV College on how to establish an IV and the class I took on CRP about 25 years ago. My drug abuse training only helped me to know a little about drugs. I signed Amy up for the CPR class at the College; it was either a 4 hour or 8 hour class. I figured what the hell and signed her up for 8 hour class. It turned out to be a smart decision, they also covered the AED.

We got a call from Air Care that said my new oxygen concentrator was in; I played dumb, "What new oxygen concentrator?"

"Your doctor prescribed a 10 liter machine."

"He did, when?"

"Last week, didn't he tell you?"

"Nope, but whatever you say."

The medical supplies were delivered the same week, 3 cases of IV solutions and 100 IV sets (60 drops/ml). On top of that, there were 100 of the IV catheter sets in 2 sizes. They were 75 18 gauge and 25 22 gauge, I guess the smaller ones were for the kids. The stuff wasn't cheap, \$1.95 per catheter and \$2.29 each for the IV sets. The solutions were probably the cheapest part of the purchase. The defibrillator ran anywhere from \$890 to over \$3,000. We went with the Defibtech LifeLine AED and bought extra batteries and pads. The pediatric pads had a built in device to limit the shock for younger patients. I came with other accessories and a CD so we could learn to use that particular machine. You didn't even need an Rx if you bought from that store, they included an Rx.

Normal Saline is plain salt water that's the same concentration as your blood. D5W is 5% sugar solution and provides nourishment and Ringer's is a solution that will preserve muscle tissue with its various electrolytes or whatever. There are several other IV solutions, but I was using the KISS principle. If the LA County Paramedics only carried Normal Saline, we were better equipped than they were. By the time they got there we could at least have an IV established. We also had to buy flush for the IVs, pre-filled syringes containing normal saline. It sure does get complicated.

I wanted a 10 liter machine because of something that happened a couple of years back. I asked the Air Care Serviceman for masks rather cannulas. He said no, use of masks required a minimum oxygen flow of 6 liters. I got around that with the new machine, which I set to deliver 2 liters, the same as my old one.

And, why would we need the stuff if we could get Paramedics to housing tract? I'll answer that, it takes them time to get there, too much time. If someone went into defib, they could die before the paramedics got there. We could zap them and start them on Ringer's and let the Paramedics do the tough stuff like Lidocaine, Sodium Bicarbonate and all the tough stuff. We could even put someone on 10 liters of oxygen, that's what they had me on when I ended up in the hospital with a breathing problem. Man, when you have a heart attack, they give you all kinds of drugs, but with oxygen, a defibrillator, IV solutions and aspirin, we could get a head start. Besides, what if the Muslims showed up and started shooting? (See, I got it back to the title)

Ronald finally showed up around December 28th and he looked like he needed a drink. If he needed one, he had booze at his house, I didn't keep any. Well, Sharon would sometimes buy a six pack of beer or a four pack of wine, but when she did, I ignored her. Neither one constituted more than a good start.

Sharon's check cleared so I assumed that Derek bought the Austrian FAL rifle. I also assumed he'd call me but he hadn't so I sent him an email. His reply was short and to the point, Got it and some of the \$5 magazines, thanks. I sent an email and asked if he would buy Damon a shotgun. If he said he would, I write a check and clear it with the boss later. They could work out the logistics of getting the shotgun from Gassville to Britt.

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"Hey asshole, how are you doing?"

"God, you're ugly. We had a terrible time getting back. It was a ground burst, there's fallout everywhere."

"We didn't get any here."

"I noticed. Still have power, too."

"Lost the internet for a while, I went into withdrawal. We're all set in case you have a heart attack, got one of those AEDs, IV solutions and Amy is current on her CPR."

"If it happens, just let me go. After spending a month with her dad, I'm ready. Man did you go shopping or what?"

"You didn't see my new generator. I'm convinced and maybe Sharon is too, that we're in for a whole lot of trouble. Those nukes were just the first step in the New Crusades. This

time the Muslims are going to fight it in Europe and here on our soil. Those radicals have them all fired up and they're convinced we're either going to convert or die."

"Convert to Islam?"

"Yeah. I could convert to LDS. I could convert to Catholic, but I'll never be a Muslim."

"What about Baptist?"

"Now you're going too far."

"What do you have against the Baptists?"

"Nothing, I just don't want to be one."

"What the hell is that?"

"Road plate. I asked Chris where I could get some and Matt and he brought it and installed it."

"Are the stores open, we don't have a lot of food in the house?"

"They're open, but I don't know how much food they have, people have been stocking up."

"What did you buy for a generator?"

"Onan RS15000. They were on backorder, but only for 2 weeks. I put in 1,000-gallons of propane, and if I figured it right, it burns anywhere from 1.2 to 2.4gph."

"So you have anywhere from 400 to 800 hours of run time?"

"Yes, but it won't support our air conditioner in the summer if it comes to that. Sharon doubled the size of the air conditioner when she replaced the furnace to 5 tons. I don't know that it's more efficient like it's supposed to be but it keeps the house cold."

"But Gar-Bear, 400 hours is only 16 days at full power and a month at minimum power."

"The lights are never out for very long, Ron."

"Yeah but, you told me that you might have to shelter for 2,401 hours and even at minimum power, you'd need at least a 3,000 gallon propane tank."

"You said I was crazy to want a 3,000-gallon propane tank, remember?"

"I did, didn't I? Maybe I was wrong. What made you buy a big generator?"

“My neighbor across the street has an RS 20000 and a 1,000-gallon tank.”

“Is he a crackpot like you?”

“He was a Green Beret in Vietnam. Does that make him crazy?”

“I don’t know him, is he?”

“Not hardly. They were on vacation in Arizona when the terrorists attacked. When he came back, he had a M1A and a Bushmaster A3. I didn’t know it, but Elvia and he had put in that generator. I think they’re pretty well prepared. He helped me get my rifles sighted in.”

“How would you fill that big of tank if you could get one?”

“I’d rent the tank the same as we are now. Maybe they could put in the new tank first and transfer the 900 gallons we have into it. It’s running about a buck seventy nine the last I heard. We could add about 500 gallons at a time until we reached 2,700 gallons. That would probably take about 3-4 months. What are you going to do?”

“I’ll have to talk to Lyn. You’re talking about a lot of money there. We have to buy the food, too. How big is your freezer?”

“About 21ft³. You can fill it from Costco if they have the meat in stock. For sure you can put a half of beef and some pork and chicken in it.”

“Are you still on natural gas?”

“Yes, but like Lance, I bought jets to convert the appliances. I asked Dick if he could do it and he said it wouldn’t be a problem. He could do it for you, if you needed. I also have the kit to convert the generator to natural gas, just in case.”

“What’s in those pails?”

“Staples. Three kinds of beans, rice, egg noodles, macaroni, spaghetti, sugar, flour and so forth. A couple of them contain popcorn.”

“Do you have enough coffee?”

“Not really. If it were up to me, we’d have 52 cans of coffee. I was lucky to get Sharon to agree to buy 30 cans, she only wanted 24. We stocked up on toilet paper too. We have 12 bundles of 30 rolls each. I had to cheat on cigarettes; I’ve been buying 6 cartons a month and hiding the leftovers. She says I smoke too much, but she doesn’t know I have accumulated about 20 cartons. I won’t be happy until I get it up to a year’s supply.

You guys had better sit down and have a long talk about this partner. I honestly believe the Muslims have brought the war to our shores.”

“I suppose you want me to stock up on ammo too.”

“What would it hurt? Properly stored, ammo keeps for years. If you had read my stories, you’d know this and I wouldn’t have to preach to you. At least Lyn and you have a 6 month supply of drugs.”

“I got so many samples I had to throw some away, they were expired.”

“They were probably still good, Ron. You store them in the cupboard under good conditions. Don’t believe those expiration dates, they assume you store them under less than ideal conditions. Did you check with a pharmacy to find out if they were still good?”

“I don’t know about these things like you do.”

“There are some you can’t store, but they are few and far between. Epinephrine and tetracycline are good examples of drugs with a short shelf life. Many drugs stored under reasonable conditions retain 90 percent of their potency for at least five years after the expiration date on the label, and sometimes much longer. The Pentagon did a study and they found that manufacturers use conservative expiration dates. About 85 percent of the Pentagon’s drug stockpile remained good after the expiration date, and shelf-life program extended their expiration dates by an average of 57 months, according to the FDA. Among them were everyday antibiotics like tetracycline and penicillin; the tranquilizer Valium (diazepam); and the ulcer drug, Tagamet (cimetidine). One batch of the antibiotic Cipro (ciprofloxacin) was good 13 years after the expiration date.”

“I don’t have time to research all of that stuff.”

“Make friends with a pharmacist, Ron. If you get a good one, he or she can be your best friend. I have insulin I bought a year ago and it doesn’t begin to go bad until you open the bottle. Lots of drugs are like that. Nitroglycerine is like that, the short shelf life primarily applies to when it’s opened. I’ve accumulated a one year supply of Prevacid by getting a free 60 day supply every time I visit Dr. Patel. I did the same thing with Diovan HCT and Actos. Dr. J gave me samples of Avandaryl and I kept filling my prescriptions for Amaryl and Actos.”

“What are you short on?”

“Zoloft and Plavix, but I have Ecotrin. With Derek home from the sandbox, I may cut back on the Zoloft anyway and start saving up on it.”

“Does it work?”

“Do you mean does it keep me from being depressed? Not really. I figure I can cut it back to 50mg and build up a supply over time. Once I get a full year supply, I’ll raise the dosage back up to 100mg.”

“Man, I wouldn’t mess around with my drugs if I were you.”

“You aren’t me partner.”

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Ron and I didn’t agree on everything. He did know a lot about propane, he’d designed industrial installations when he’d worked for AmeriGas. If he said I needed a 3,000-gallon tank, I needed a 3,000 gallon tank. I sure hoped he took my advice about stocking up on food and drugs. He really needed to put in a residential standby generator too; he had a CPAP and a few other medical appliances. It was like I said about firearms, would you prefer to have a firearm and not need it or to need a firearm and not have it?

Derek and Mary had visited during November and returned home before TSHTF. I hadn’t seen him for a while before he went to the sandbox, but I think it aged him. It also made him more willing to get into preparedness. We did what we could to help in that regard; getting him the FAL rifle he wanted. If he’d driven instead of flying, I sure we could have done more. We couldn’t send food back with them, for example. I could send him a check when we had the money so he could buy some of the surplus ammo. He was fussy about that and I’m not sure what he ended up with.

Frugal said the South African was some of the finest military surplus but wouldn’t sell to Kalifornia residents. I found another source, but couldn’t quite match the price. Then when the terrorists set off the bombs, I found mama to be in a good mood and we’d done some buying. I had the guns I wanted, more or less. That means I wanted more, not less, but I had the basic armory. My gut was telling me we’d need it. My gut told me many things and it wasn’t always right, but it had a good track record except when it came to ulcers. I blame Dr. J for the ulcers; he put me on aspirin instead of Ecotrin. I also blamed myself because I knew better.

Religious fanatics, regardless of what name they give their jealous god, invariably have one thing in common: no sense of humor. Particularly about themselves. It’s hard to imagine Torquemada taking a joke well.

Today’s Islamists seem to have not even a sense of irony. They fail to see the richness of the following sequence. The pope makes a reference to a 14th-century Byzantine emperor’s remark about Islam imposing itself by the sword, and to protest this linking of Islam and violence:

- In the West Bank and Gaza, Muslims attack seven churches.
- In London, the ever-dependable radical Anjem Choudary tells demonstrators at Westminster Cathedral that the pope is now condemned to death.

- In Mogadishu, Somali religious leader Abubakar Hassan Malin calls on Muslims to “hunt down” the pope. The pope not being quite at hand, they do the next best thing: shoot dead, execution-style, an Italian nun who worked in a children’s hospital.

“How dare you say Islam is a violent religion? I’ll kill you for it” is not exactly the best way to go about refuting the charge. But of course, refuting is not the point here. The point is intimidation.

First Salman Rushdie. Then the false Newsweek report about Koran-flushing at Guantanamo Bay. Then the Danish cartoons. And now a line from a scholarly disquisition on rationalism and faith given in German at a German university by the pope.

And the intimidation succeeds: politicians bowing and scraping to the mob over the cartoons; Saturday’s craven New York Times editorial telling the pope to apologize; the plague of self-censorship about anything remotely controversial about Islam – this in a culture in which a half-naked pop star blithely stages a mock crucifixion as the highlight of her latest concert tour. (Madonna)

In today’s world, religious sensitivity is a one-way street. The rules of the road are enforced by Islamic mobs and abjectly followed by Western media, politicians and religious leaders.

The fact is that all three monotheistic religions have in their long histories wielded the sword. The Book of Joshua is knee-deep in blood. The real Hanukkah story, so absurdly twinned (by calendric accident) with the Christian festival of peace, is about a savage insurgency and civil war.

Christianity more than matched that lurid history with the Crusades, an ecumenical blood bath that began with the slaughter of Jews in the Rhineland, a kind of pre-season warm-up to the featured massacres to come against the Muslims, with the sacking of the capital of Byzantium (the Fourth Crusade) thrown in for good measure.

And Islam, of course, spread with great speed from Arabia across the Mediterranean and into Europe. It was not all benign persuasion. After all, what were Islamic armies doing at Poitiers in 732 and the gates of Vienna in 1683? Tourism?

However, the inconvenient truth is that after centuries of religious wars, Christendom long ago gave it up. It is a simple and undeniable fact that the violent purveyors of monotheistic religion today are self-proclaimed warriors for Islam who shout “God is great” as they slit the throats of infidels – such as those of the flight crews on Sept. 11, 2001 – and are then celebrated as heroes and martyrs.

Just one month ago, two journalists were kidnapped in Gaza and were released only after their forced conversion to Islam. Where were the protests in the Islamic world at that act – rather than the charge – of forced conversion?

Where is the protest over the constant stream of vilification of Christianity and Judaism issuing from the official newspapers, mosques and religious authorities of Arab nations? When Sheik Atiyah Saqr issues a fatwa declaring Jews “apes and pigs”? When Sheik Abd al-Aziz Fawzan al-Fawzan, professor of Islamic law, says on Saudi TV that “some-one who denies Allah, worships Christ, son of Mary, and claims that God is one-third of a trinity. . . . Don’t you hate the faith of such a polytheist?”

Where are the demonstrations, where are the parliamentary resolutions, where are the demands for retraction when the Mufti Sheik Ali Gum’a incites readers of al-Ahram, the Egyptian government daily, against “the true and hideous face of the blood-suckers . . . who prepare [Passover] matzos from human blood”?

The pope gives offense and the Mujaheddin al-Shura Council in Iraq declares that it “will break up the cross, spill the liquor and impose the ‘jizya’ [head] tax; then the only thing acceptable is conversion or the sword.” This to protest the accusation that Islam might be spread by the sword.

As I said. No sense of irony. – Charles Krauthammer (Washington Post) Of course besides being a conservative commentator Charles is an MD and Jewish.

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I was trying to think of any reason that might cause Muslims to come to Palmdale. I wasn’t having much luck, we didn’t have anything they’d want unless they simply wanted to try and kill some people. This was the wrong place to try that, I doubt that anyone in the AV turned in weapons when Kalifornia passed the laws outlawing all of the fun guns. However, if you’re familiar with the area, Palmdale gets its power via several high-lines. South of Palmdale, they were everywhere and it wouldn’t take much to bring one of the towers down. In turn, that might cause a cascade effect, taking out other power sources. In the summer, but not in the winter. In the winter, all it would do is cut power to the AV.

I also wondered if I went house to house in our tract how many hand grenades I could find. Some of my neighbors might be legal, but for sure others were not. A person could tell, they took major steps to avoid any contact with the Sheriff’s Department. But wait, all of these folks were Mexicans, weren’t they? Perhaps a Spanish speaker would know, but I don’t speak Spanish and have no reason to learn. Who cared where they were from? As long as there were no MS-13 tattoos, Say, do you know the difference between Arabic and Farsi? Farsi is Indo-European language family and the Arabic is Afro-Asiatic language family. There are more Arabic speakers than there are Farsi speakers.

Maybe I could get Catherine Bell to teach me. She was Isabella Rossellini’s nude body double in *Death Becomes Her*. Watch the sales of that DVD jump. My favorite Isabella Rossellini movie is *White Nights* and that has nothing to do with the new crusade. We eased into 2007, holding our breaths. Ron must have laid it on thick with Linda, they had 2 new freezers in their garage and a Kohler 50RZGB-RES because their house had

a 200 amp service. They also had a pair of 3,000-gallon propane tanks and they had filled them.

I figured she must have hit her daddy up for the money. She probably told him that if TSHTF he could come to their house. If she did, she was lying; Ron would never stand still for that. I sort guessed her daddy would outlive George Burns. If I guessed right, one freezer was filled with those frozen meals ala Marie Callender and the other with tri-tip steak. Sharon and I had a bit of a disagreement when we were discussing our food supplies. She bought 3 8-pound bags of macaroni and I told her it was a good start. I wanted enough to fill a pail and have a bag left over. She was the steak lover and I liked ground beef.

Something is nagging... Oh, I remember, it had to do with the prison west of Lancaster. The facility was designed to hold 200 Class I inmates and 1,000 class IV inmates. The paper said that it currently housed 296 Class I and 3,889 Class IV, a total of 4,185. Class IV is maximum security. Security at the prison is provided by an electric fence, 10,000 volts or something like that. The prison must have backup power, we get a fair number of brownouts and blackouts here in the Valley. What I was thinking was one sure way to raise havoc in the Valley would be to somehow cause a release of prisoners.

I really don't know what made me think of that, our problem was terrorists, apparently Muslim terrorists. Just this week, the Sheriff's Department announced an increase in the number of Deputies assigned to the Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's Substations. I can't see we really needed the Deputies, we haven't had any trouble. We had the usual shooting of guns on New Year's Eve, it happens every year. Sometimes they arrest someone, but not frequently. If they're going to celebrate, they should really use fireworks.

The date? It's Monday and the second Holiday in 2007, Martin Luther King Day. I'd love to comment on not celebrating Lincoln's birthday, but maybe some other story. Late in the afternoon, CBS new broke in with breaking news, there was some kind of disturbance in Santa Barbara. You've seen these reporters, they don't need any facts, they just guess until someone calls the station and corrects them. I've always felt sorry for the callers, they really get the 3rd degree, worse than anything we ever did to al Qaeda prisoners in those secret overseas prisons.

It was finally sorted out, an immigrant family, Muslims, tried to buy 2 bags of fertilizer for their garden. The store owner, suspecting they were terrorists called the cops. The hot headed son waiting in the car confronted the store owner and the store owner pulled a gun. The kid yelled something in Arabic and went for the owner, who killed him. Rioting later broke out after the police questioned the family and let them go. A companion protest arose in Glendale. Arnold had to call out the National Guard. It was just a typical winter day. Gardening in January? Not really, it was a one-day pre-season sale with 50% off.

The small incident in Santa Barbara refused to go away. Feelings were running high in the southland to begin with and neither side wanted to be the first one to back off. We decided to cancel further visits to Northridge to see Dr. J.

Based on the circumference, depth and other factors, a conclusion was reached that the bomb that was detonated only yielded ~3kT. Most of the San Fernando Valley had been spared fallout because the wind had been out of the north. Ron and Linda had been lucky, the wind slowly moved from being out of the north to being out of the west. Newport Beach had been spared significant radiation. He took a long circuitous route home, avoiding the areas of fallout.

“Have you been watching TV?”

“Gar-Bear, there’s nothing else to do.”

“What’s your take on the riots?”

“Escalating.”

“I agree, I don’t like it. You and I have been to the prison on panels; do you know how overcrowded that prison is?”

“How much?”

“They have 4 times as many Max prisoners as the place was designed for.”

“Level 4?”

“Yes sir, it was designed for 1,000 but is just under 4,000.”

The New Crusades – Chapter 8

“Not to change the subject, but Linda and I are done preparing. I put in the Kohler 50RES, 6,000 gallons of propane storage, and we have about 3-4 months of food on the shelf.”

“I don’t suppose you bought a real rifle, did you?”

“Do you mean a military rifle? I thought about buying a Mauser from Mitchell’s but decided against it, I’m gun poor anyway. My hunting rifles will be just fine.”

“Didn’t buy anything from them?”

“Well... yes I did, they sell coach guns, the kind that have hammers. I bought one of those.”

“Do you have enough 12 gauge ammo?”

“I bought some 8-pellet tactical 00.”

“Afraid you’ll bruise your shoulder?”

“It’s what I could find, Sandy had it on sale. What do you use?”

“Remington Express Magnum 12-pellet 00.”

“I’ll bet that chit kicks.”

“Probably, but I should have bought 3” Remington Express Magnum 15-pellet 00.”

“Why didn’t you?”

“I have more shots with the 2¾” shells.”

“Like we’ll every need to shoot our guns.”

“I have a theory on that, want to hear it?”

“Will it take long?”

“It’s like this, Ron, we have a whole lot of Jews and Muslims in LA. They don’t like each other. On top of that, we have about 80 jillion illegals from south of the border. I figure the illegals will join up with the Muslims in hopes of restoring the nation of Aztlán. Their first step would be to break all of their compañeros out of the prisons. The prisons are primarily designed to keep people in, not to keep people out.”

July 14, 2006: The F-35 (recently named the Lightning II) is due to enter service soon. While the F-22 is widely seen as the ultimate air-to-air machine, the F-35 is described as a multi-role aircraft. How does the F-35 compare in the air-to-air mission against likely competitors like the French Rafale, the Swedish Gripen, and the multi-national Eurofighter?

The Rafale, Gripen, and Eurofighter are all in service or expected to enter service in 2006. All of them boast some of the best electronics suites ever to appear in combat aircraft. All have top speeds approaching 2,000 kilometers an hour. All three aircraft carry excellent beyond-visual-range missiles (like the Mica, AMRAAM, and Meteor). All are highly maneuverable. But will they be better than the F-35 in a fight?

The answer, surprisingly, is probably not. The F-35 has one big advantage over these three fighters from Europe. Its radar signature is very small – as is the case with the F-117 and F-22. Given that its speed is comparable to the European jets, and its AESA radar is at least as good as the European systems, this “invisibility” is a decisive advantage. The best weapons in the world are useless if they cannot see their targets.

The F-35 will be able to see the Rafale, Gripen, and Eurofighter long before it can be seen itself. The first rule of air combat may be “speed is life”, but the second rule is “lose the sight, lose the fight”. In the 21st century, sight includes radar. It is very likely that the only warning the F-35 may give of its presence will be when its radar has locked on to one of the European fighters. By that point, the F-35 is already close to launching its AMRAAMs.

This is probably the major reason for the United States Air Force’s future dominance of the air. Even its second-best fighter will probably be able to best the front-line designs of other western nations in a “paper” fight based on specifications and capabilities. When the level of training American pilots get is added to the mix, the F-35’s advantage becomes staggering. One other factor to consider is that the United States Air Force plans to have 1,763 F-35s on inventory (the Marine Corps and Navy variants would add another 780 F-35s to the mix). If the Rafale is built to a planned force level of 292, and the Saudi order for the Eurofighter goes through, the combined Gripen, Rafale, and Eurofighter production runs will total 1,262, meaning there will be two F-35s for every one of the advanced European fighters. – Harold C. Hutchison

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Living next door to plant 42 allows me to observe most of our military aircraft. The greatest bomber they ever built was the B-52. The greatest bomber they never built was the B-1A. The B-1B cost about \$200 million each, we should have built 100 of them.

Primary Function: Long-range, multi-role, heavy bomber

Builder: Rockwell International, North American Aircraft

Operations Air Frame and Integration: Offensive avionics, Boeing Military Airplane; defensive avionics, AIL Division

Power Plant: Four General Electric F-101 GE-100 turbofan engine with afterburner
Thrust: 30,000-plus pounds (13,500-plus kilograms) with afterburner, per engine
Length: 150.2 feet
Wingspan: 136.7 feet extended forward – 78.2 feet swept aft
Height: 33.6 feet
Weights: Design Maximum Takeoff: 389,800 lbs – Design Maximum Ramp: 395,000 lbs
– Maximum Landing: 350,000 lbs
Speed: Max Speed: at 500 ft. (750 mph) – Max Speed: Mach 2.0 at 50,000 feet (1,320 mph) – Cruise speed: at 50,000 ft (648 mph)
Range: 5,300 miles unrefueled
Ceiling: Over 30,000 feet (9,000 meters)
Crew: Four (aircraft commander, pilot, offensive systems officer and defensive systems officer)
Armament: 115,000 lbs – 24 AGM-69B SRAM (200kT); conventional bombs – 75,000 lbs internal plus 40,000 lbs external 32 SRAM
Date Deployed: Cancelled 1977
Unit Cost:
Inventory: none – 4 built, 2 crashed and 2 on display

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This was turning out like that new TV show, Jericho. The bomb was exploded a ways off and we didn't get much, if any, radiation. I'd folded the plastic back up and marked it with a black marker in case we needed to use it again. To reiterate: WMDs include biological weapons and chemical weapons. How hard can it be to make nerve gas, Hitler figured it out and he was crazy.

Tabun was originally developed as a pesticide in Germany in 1936. Tabun is a man-made chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent. Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents. They are similar to pesticides (insect killers) called organophosphates in terms of how they work and what kinds of harmful effects they cause. However, nerve agents are much more potent than organophosphate pesticides. Tabun is a clear, colorless, tasteless liquid with a faint fruity odor. Tabun can become a vapor if heated.

Sarin originally was developed in 1938 in Germany as a pesticide. Sarin is a human-made chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent. Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents. They are similar to certain kinds of pesticides (insect killers) called organophosphates in terms of how they work and what kind of harmful effects they cause. However, nerve agents are much more potent than organophosphate pesticides.

Soman was originally developed as an insecticide in Germany in 1944. Soman is a human-made chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent. Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents. They are similar to pesticides (insect killers) called organophosphates in terms of how they work and the

kinds of harmful effects they cause. However, nerve agents are much more potent than organophosphate pesticides. Chemical weapons are divided into 3 schedules

Schedule I

Sarin
Soman
Tabun
VE, VG, VM and VX
Sulfur Mustard gasses
Lewisites
Nitrogen Mustard gasses
Saxitoxin
Ricin

Schedule II

Amiton
PFIB
BZ

Schedule III

Phosgene
Cyanogen Chloride
Hydrogen Cyanide
Phosphorus Pentachloride
Trimethyl phosphate
Triethyl phosphite
Dimethyl phosphate
Diethyl phosphate
Sulfur monochloride
Sulfur dichloride
Thionyl chloride
Ethyl-diethanolamine
Methyl-diethanolamine
Triethanolamine

There is one more and it's not covered by the Chemical Weapons Treaties: Novichok agents. As a nerve agent, Novichok agents inhibit the enzyme cholinesterase, preventing the normal breakdown of acetylcholine. The big difference with Novichok is that there is, allegedly, more permanent damage done, even when given a nerve agent antidote. Abrin 1/75 the strength of Ricin and it comes from the Black-eyed Susan.

Nerve agents have an extremely rapid effect. If medical methods of treatment are to serve any purpose, they must be introduced immediately. In many countries, the armed

forces have access to an auto-injector containing antidotes to nerve agents. It is so simple to use that the soldier can easily give himself or another person an intramuscular injection.

The various nerve agents cause poisoning which are more or less easy to treat with oximes. From this standpoint, VX and sarin are the easiest to treat and all oximes used increase the chances of surviving poisoning with these nerve agents. Obidoxime is the most effective against tabun poisoning but also HI-6 has a positive effect. Soman causes the most difficultly treated poisoning and can only be treated with HI-6.

Soman poisoning is complicated by the inhibited enzyme going through an "ageing" process. Following the ageing the enzyme cannot be reactivated by any oxime. It is possible that HI-6 has some further positive antidote effect in addition to its reactivating ability.

The other active component in the auto-injector is atropine. Atropine is the classical antidote in cases of poisoning by organo-phosphorus compounds. It is a medication which relieves the symptoms but does not attack the cause of the injury. Atropine becomes bound to the receptors for acetylcholine, which are present in the cholinergic synapse. When acetylcholine is bound, the signal is transmitted but if atropine has become bound to the receptor, then no such transmission takes place. Atropine thus gives protection against the excess of acetylcholine which results from inhibition of acetylcholinesterase. Atropine has effects only within certain parts of the cholinergic nervous system.

There are two types of acetylcholine receptors, the nicotinic which are found, e.g., in the skeletal muscles, and the muscarinic, which are found in, e.g., smooth muscles, glands and the central nervous system. Atropine blocks the muscarinic receptors. Atropine and oxime may therefore be considered to complement each other and the two antidotes also have a synergetic effect, i.e., they boost each other.

An additional auto-injector can be given to victims of nerve agents if their situation does not improve within ten minutes. Subsequently, the victim should be treated by qualified medical staff who should initially inject additional atropine and an anti-convulsant drug, diazepam. In cases of severe poisoning by nerve agents, large doses of atropine (grammes) may be required. The level of operational acetylcholinesterase is gradually restored by the body's own production but this process requires at least two weeks. During this period, and possibly also later, the victim may require medical care not only for mental disorders such as difficulty in sleeping, amnesia, difficulties in concentrating, and anxiety, but also for muscular weakness. Mental problems may also occur after long exposure to extremely low concentrations to nerve agents.

There are also medical antidotes which can be taken preventively. These antidotes are taken as tablets and used when ordered in connection with maximum C-preparedness. One of the tablets contains a carbamate, pyridostigmine, as active ingredient.

Pyridostigmine inhibits acetylcholinesterase and protects the enzyme against inhibitory effects of nerve agents. The dose is low and leads to about 25 per cent inhibition. The pyridostigmine-inhibited enzyme is continuously released to active state and thereby can reasonably effectively maintain the transfer of nerve impulses despite injury caused by nerve agents. The effect is restricted to the peripheral cholinergic nervous system since the substance does not enter the brain.

Pyridostigmine does not cause any side effects since there is a large excess of enzyme in the cholinergic synapse. In actual fact, 1-2 per cent of functional enzyme is sufficient to have a functioning synapse. This explains why carbamate pretreatment has such good effect.

Pretreatment with carbamate should be combined with oxime therapy (the auto-injector) after the poisoning in order to provide maximum effect. This combination reduces the toxic effects of all nerve agents.

A diazepam tablet is also generally given as a pretreatment, primarily affecting the central nervous system. Diazepam strengthens the effect of other nerve agent antidotes. There will be better prospects of survival and less injury. Diazepam also provides protection against permanent brain damage which may result from heavy exposure to nerve agents.

Pretreatment has best effect if a warning system is available and operative, since the tablets need about 30 min. to have effect after being swallowed. The best protective effect is achieved after about two hours, which is followed by decreasing efficacy. If the situation so requires, treatment can be repeated at eight-hourly intervals for some days. The tablets should not be taken once nerve agent injury has occurred. Admittedly, diazepam has a positive effect but pyridostigmine at that stage will aggravate the injury.

I have a copy of the Combat Lifesaver manuals. Chapter 14 covers nerve gas injuries:

PERFORM FIRST AID FOR A NERVE AGENT INJURY

TASK

Identify the procedures for treating a nerve agent casualty.

CONDITIONS

Given multiple choice examination items pertaining to nerve agent poisoning, treatment, and decontamination.

STANDARD

Score 70 or more points on the 100-point written examination.

REFERENCES

STP 21-1-SMCT, Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks: Skill Level 1.
FM 21-11, First Aid for Soldiers.

FM 8-285, Treatment of Chemical Agent Casualties and Conventional Military Chemical Injuries.

14-1. INTRODUCTION

Nerve agents are among the deadliest of the chemical agents. Nerve agents can enter the body by inhalation, by ingestion, and through the skin and eyes. Nerve agents are absorbed rapidly and the effects are felt immediately upon entry into the body. A soldier showing signs of mild nerve agent poisoning will normally be able to administer his own Mark I (atropine and 2-PAM chloride). A soldier showing signs of moderate to severe nerve agent poisoning will not be able to help himself and requires assistance. Your first priority, however, is to ensure that you yourself are adequately protected before assisting any nerve agent casualty. You cannot adequately help the casualty if you are also overcome by the nerve agent.

14-2. TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Anytime you believe that you have been exposed to a chemical agent, your first action should be to take adequately protective measures against the agent. Put on your protective mask immediately and give the alarm. If you have signs and symptoms of mild nerve agent poisoning (unexplained runny nose, sudden headache, dizziness, drooling, tightness in the chest, muscular twitching, stomach cramps, nausea, and/or reduced vision), administer one set of nerve agent autoinjectors to yourself and decontaminate exposed skin. Put on the rest of your protective clothing. Now you are prepared to accomplish your mission and to give aid to casualties as your mission allows.

14-3. IDENTIFY SIGNS OF SEVERE NERVE AGENT POISONING

A casualty may progress from mild to moderate to severe nerve agent poisoning rapidly. Signs of severe nerve agent poisoning include:

- Strange and confused behavior.
- Coughing, wheezing, and gurgling sounds while breathing.
- Difficulty in breathing.
- Severely pinpointed pupils.
- Red eyes with tears present.
- Severe difficulty in seeing.
- Vomiting.
- Severe muscular twitching and general weakness.
- Loss of bladder and bowel control.
- Decrease in heart rate (pulse).
- Convulsions.
- Paralysis.
- Unconsciousness.
- Respiratory arrest (no breathing).

A Combat Lifesavers bag contains 5 doses of Atropine and 5 doses of Diazepam, it's on the test. Go figure, they tell you in the book to administer 3 doses to the patient and 1 to yourself. If we get a nerve gas attack, I guess we'll put up the plastic sheeting and pray.

In my Air Force days, they also talked about BAL (British Anti-Lewisite) injections. I found out its name is Dimercaprol. Developed secretly as an antidote for Lewisite, the now-obsolete arsenic-based chemical warfare agent. Today, it is used medically in treatment of arsenic, mercury, lead and other heavy metal poisoning. In addition, it is used for the treatment of Wilson's disease, a genetic disorder in which the body tends to retain copper. Dimercaprol is itself toxic, with a narrow therapeutic index and a tendency to concentrate arsenic in some organs. Other drawbacks include the need to administer it by painful IM injection.

Chemical warfare is different from the use of conventional weapons or nuclear weapons because the destructive effects of chemical weapons are not primarily due to any explosive force. The offensive use of living organisms (such as anthrax) is considered to be biological warfare rather than chemical warfare; the use of nonliving toxic products produced by living organisms (e.g., toxins such as botulinum toxin, ricin, or saxitoxin – shellfish toxin) is considered chemical warfare under the provisions of the CWC. Under this Convention, any toxic chemical, regardless of its origin, is considered as a chemical weapon unless it is used for purposes that are not prohibited (an important legal definition, known as the General Purpose Criterion). Tetrodotoxin is the almost always fatal fish toxin and there isn't any antidote I know about.

We heard a lot about anthrax after the WTC on 9/11 and a little bit about Ricin. But, I'm telling you these terrorists will use anything they can make. Over in Tokyo, terrorists used Sarin gas in a subway station killing 12 people and seriously injuring 54 on 20Mar95. Most chemical weapons that use Sarin are binary weapons.

This move cannot be ruled out, he said to Reuters and International Herald Tribune, despite the chasm between the Sunni Muslim al Qaeda and Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah.

Counter-terror sources had uncovered the presence of active al Qaeda cells in Lebanon, located mainly in Palestinian refugee camps in Tripoli in the north and Sidon in the south. Hezbollah's military operations commander Imad Mughniyeh brokered a new operational pact between his organization and al Qaeda with Tehran's blessing. Sectarian differences between the Shiite Hezbollah and predominantly Sunni Muslim Palestinians have never barred their cooperation in Gaza and the West Bank. Since 1993, Mughniyeh, who is close to Iranian ruler Ali Khamenei, has liaised between Iran and the al Qaeda leadership. Great the Shi'a and Sunni got together and are ganging up on us. There wasn't any proof either way that Osama was dead, six months after the report in the French newspaper.

It wasn't all that long ago that Muammar Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi wasn't our friend. IIRC, Libya had terrorist training camps. Throughout the 1970s, his regime was implicated in subversion and terrorist activities in both Arab and non-Arab countries. By the mid-1980s, he was widely regarded in the West as the principal financier of international terrorism. Reportedly, Gaddafi was a major financier of the "Black September Movement" which perpetrated the Munich massacre at the 1972 Summer Olympics, and was accused by the US of being responsible for direct control of the 1986 Berlin discotheque

bombing that killed three people and wounded more than 200, of which a substantial number were US servicemen. He is also said to have paid “Carlos the Jackal” to kidnap and then release a number of the Saudi Arabian and Iranian oil ministers. Ilich Ramírez Sánchez is a Venezuelan-born mercenary. He is commonly referred to as Carlos (a nom de guerre) or the Jackal (a press nickname) or Carlos the Jackal.

After a three year joint investigation by the Scottish Dumfries and Galloway and the US FBI, during which 15,000 witness statements were taken, indictments for murder were issued on 13Nov91, against Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, a Libyan intelligence officer and the head of security for Libyan Arab Airlines (LAA), and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, the LAA station manager in Luga Airport, Malta for bombing Pan Am Flight 103.

UN sanctions against Libya and protracted negotiations with the Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi secured the handover of the accused on 5Apr99 to Scottish police in the Netherlands, chosen as a neutral venue. On 31Jan01, Megrahi was convicted of murder by a panel of three Scottish judges, and sentenced to 27 years in prison. Fhimah was acquitted. Megrahi’s appeal against his conviction was refused on 14Mar02, and his application to the European Court of Human Rights was declared inadmissible in July 2003. On 23Sep03 Megrahi applied to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC) for his conviction to be reviewed, and for his case to be referred back to the High Court for a fresh appeal. He is serving his sentence in Greenock prison near Glasgow, where he continues to profess his innocence.

For you conspiracy theorists, On 5Dec98, the FAA issued a security bulletin saying that, on 5Dec, a man with an Arabic accent had telephoned the US Embassy in Helsinki, and had told them that a Pan Am flight from Frankfurt to the United States would be blown up within the next two weeks by someone associated with the Abu Nidal Organization. He said a Finnish woman would carry the bomb on board as an unwitting courier. The caller was off by only two days.

On 13Dec, the warning was posted on bulletin boards in the US Embassy in Moscow, and eventually distributed to the entire American community there, including journalists and businessmen, as a result of which a number of people allegedly booked on carriers other than Pan Am, leaving seats empty on PA103 that were later sold cheaply in so-called “bucket shops”. PA103 investigators subsequently said the telephone warning had been a hoax and a chilling coincidence. It had to be a conspiracy after all; George H. W. Bush was President at the time. If Bill Clinton had been President, it couldn’t have been a Conspiracy. His only crime was being married to the Ice Queen aka the Wicked Witch of the East. Clinton gets blamed for the WTC bombing, Ruby Ridge, Oklahoma City, Waco and the two US Embassy bombings. George Jr. has to hurry up to catch Bill, counting Monica, the score is 7 to 4, 9/11, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Katrina. Don’t you feel safer? I don’t know who to blame Somalia on, Sr. sent us in and Bill pulled us out. We could blame it on the Blackhawk’s for not being bulletproof.

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We've been at war with Islam since the first crusade. Those folks have very long memories. At one time in history, the hot song was, "Hail Britannia, Britannia rules the waves." That was at the height of British Imperialism and the height of the British Empire. The UK has slipped to number 2, today the song should be, "Hail the US, the US rules the waves." And yes, Virginia, we're very Imperialistic, everyone says so. We export, gasp, Democracy. We don't have enough at home, and still we give it away, or is that shove it down their throats? I have strong feelings on the subject, I favor isolationism and darn good border fences.

Just to show us how much they appreciated it, they gave us 7 presents on Black Friday. Dubya was out of town, down in Crawford. Dick was in the White House and they moved him into the White House bunker or whatever they have there. Congress was in recess, it was Thanksgiving weekend. However, I heard on the radio, they got Hillary up in New York. Not that it was worth it, but it removed the sting.

Our half of the world is run by the Trilateral Commission, the Round Table having fallen out of favor (they're still around, they have a website). They're power brokers and we have the Rockefeller family to thank for that.

Military wise, we've fielded the F-22 Raptor, a very good jet but expensive. We're about to field the F-35 Lighting II. If we're the power in the world, why is there still an Arms Race? They should start building M14s and give the soldiers vitamins. While they're at it, maybe they could adapt the muzzle break from the BM-59 and give us a really good rifle. We could have an M14 with semi auto and 3 round burst. If they put a decent synthetic stock on it; it would be the cats whisker.

My M1A has the McMillan fiberglass stock, some claim it chips. Maybe with hard use, but it doesn't get much use here in Moon Shadows. Meanwhile, after everything settled down, I gave Sharon a box of Chocolates and a Butler Creek folding stock for Valentine's Day. For her birthday, 12 February, I put a flashhider on the Mini-14 and bought her See's Candy. Her box of See's Candy wasn't like the stuff in the Forrest Gump movie; it was 2 pounds of marzipan. The other box was a 1 pound box of See's Dark Chocolate Assortment.

"Dad, check out the TV."

"What's up?"

The New Crusades – Chapter 9

“There’s a riot at the prison in Lancaster.”

“That’s nice, wouldn’t be the first time they went to lockdown. You watch it and let me know if anything bad happens.”

I didn’t have No-Rad either. My friend Russ was the Executive Officer of a company that sold KIO_3 at only a little over their cost. If you want KIO_3 , go there, I did. When he heard I was hawking another brand, he scolded me. I didn’t blame him one bit, Medical Corps is the best because Frugal sells it too!

Perhaps the simplest solution to the problem in Iraq would have been to pull out and let them have their civil war, not that I favor pullout. We could have come home and got our equipment ready for the war with Iran. The company that does the uparmoring of the HMMWVs can crank out 1,000 Hummers a month. If they’d add the cage from the Stryker, that would solve the RPG problem. The Army was concerned about the Rocket Propelled Grenade threat, the enemy’s weapon of choice. So two new types of armor have been installed on the vehicles. The most obvious add-on to the discerning eye is called slat armor. It resembles a “bird cage” that will add three feet to the Stryker’s width. The slat armor installed on the Stryker’s resembles a big catcher’s mask that wraps around the vehicle. The armor is basically a grill of wire mesh that will cause the RPG to detonate away from the vehicle. Plans are in the works to add another type of armor package to the inventory. That add-on armor is called “reactive armor.” Essentially that armor explodes when an RPG or other anti-tank round hits it. It’s already on M-2 Bradley fighting vehicles.

And that the situation on Valentine’s Day, 2007. We’ve exported Democracy to the Arabs and they’ve exported 7 nuclear weapons to us. That somehow doesn’t seem like an even trade, oh well. I wonder what else they exported, biological or chemical weapons? If they’d used those nukes more effectively, they could have brought the country to its knees. Had it been me, I’d have put one of the bombs at Diablo Canyon and a second at San Onofre. A third one at Hoover Dam would have all but eliminated Kalifornia’s electrical supply and more than 10% of the US population lives in Kalifornia. I’ve been to Boston and let me tell you, there’s nothing in Boston worth bombing, except people and baked beans.

They were lessons to be learned from the 34-Day war, I wonder if we got the message. Hezbollah wiped out a lot of the Israeli tanks using anti-tank missiles. That Israeli tank is supposed to be Sierra Hotel. Some smart terrorist could have loaded the back half of a semi-trailer with Russian anti-tank missiles and the front half with fertilizer, defeating the explosive sniffing dogs at the Mexican border.

The bird flu was running rampant in Indonesia and they had discovered infected birds on our east coast. The bird flu threat was still around; it just didn’t get much attention in the media. From the terrorist viewpoint, the nuclear weapon packed in a Ryder Rental

and detonated in a city was the perfect choice; there wasn't any evidence for the ATF to sift through. Chuck told me that he thought the problem would be typhoid fever and that Doxy wouldn't cut it, we had to have Cipro. That's the reason I stocked up on it and doxy. I also had 21 cards of Tamiflu, enough for my entire family. I mailed 5 to Derek, 4 to Damon and gave 3 to Amy. I kept 2 for us and gave the other 7 to Lorrie. We were about as ready as we could get, although, I'd love to have 21 Combat lifesaver bags.

o

"Gar-Bear, are you watching TV?"

"No, there's nothing on that interests me."

"You didn't hear about the riot at the prison?"

"I heard, I told Amy to watch TV and let me know if anything bad happened."

"They got out."

"Who got out?"

"The inmates. They shorted out the fence and got out."

"I don't think so, Ron, they have over 800 staff at the prison."

"True, but they only have about 250 per shift."

"Chit."

"You can say that again."

"Chit."

"What are we going to do now?"

"You come here, Ron, we have a fence around our housing tract."

"How many does that make defending the housing tract?"

"Three, Lance, me and you."

"I'll bring Brenda, I'm sure she'd like to kill someone."

"I've got the Min-14, I can give to someone. I'd better get off the phone with you and call Lorrie. Sharon will have to go after her and get her here; she doesn't have much protection where she lives."

“I’ll be there in 5 minutes.”

“Right, Ron, see you in an hour.”

“Lance, you’d better get your weapons, there’s been a prison break.”

“You know if we moved our vehicles to the front of the tract, we could block the road. I’ll move our two cars.”

“Ok, when Sharon gets back with Lorrie, I’ll ask her to park the Daewoo up there.”

“We’ll need 2 more cars.”

“Ron is coming so we only really need one.”

“I’ll move Dave’s pickup to the front.”

“How?”

“He gave me a spare key.”

“We don’t have enough people, Lance, we have 3 sides open, the west, north and east.”

“Odds are they won’t even come near here. How many people did they have at the prison?”

“Over 4,000.”

“Most likely they’ll either run or hit Lancaster first and try to get their hands on guns.”

“The Gun Shop has anywhere from 6-9 employees working at all times. They’ll have to work hard to break in there.”

“That’s just down from the Sheriff’s substation, right?”

“About a block.”

“If they do come here, it won’t be for a while.”

o

Russ mentioned the blue safety gloves in response to my chapter 21 of my previous story. You don’t have to buy them from him, but you’ll know what you’re looking for. We keep 4 gallons of Clorox on hand at all times, it’s an inexpensive disinfectant.

o

“Do you have a gas mask, Lance?”

“Why would I need one?”

“Maybe they stole tear gas from the guards.”

“No I don’t have a gas mask, do you?”

“Sure, several. Did you know they passed out gas masks at the Pentagon back in 2003?”

“What kind?”

“The masks distributed were the Quick Escape 2000 Hood Masks, which provide the wearer about 60 minutes of protection from airborne toxins. There is no respirator or oxygen tank. The \$150 mask is essentially a filtration unit, designed to temporarily protect individuals until they can be evacuated or quarantined.”

“Where did you get them?”

“Safer America, they sell all kinds of protective stuff.”

“What did you use when you worked at the Rocket Site?”

“Distance. We tried to never get near the chemicals. When the others did, they usually wore Scott Air-Paks. I have the filters too, but once you open them, they have a limited life. You should be able to hold your breath long enough to open the filter and screw it on.”

“Good filters?”

“The latest and the greatest for these Advantage 3100 masks. Put the filter on the left side so you can still shoot your rifle.”

“I’m not going to put the mask on until I see some people, Gary. When I do put it on, I’ll have the filter installed.”

Lance was lucky, you sometimes had to buy the filters separate from the masks and I bought 24 filters, about \$1,000 worth. They were a universal NATO 40mm filter and fit most gas masks. They came in a six-pack for \$249.50 from a different vendor. Safer America included a filter with their gas masks but I wanted the MSA Optifilter. Everyone gets a dose of tear gas in boot camp, but not everyone is a fumble bum who gets lost in the hut filled with CS gas.

“Alright, I’m here, where are the cons?”

“So far we only have one, Ron, you.”

“Gas masks?”

“Don’t you have one?”

“Why would I want one?”

“I think you’ll take a large and Brenda can get by with a medium. Don’t install the filter until the desperadoes come.”

“Having an Eagles moment?”

“Something. To tell you the truth, I rather be standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona than behind a barricade of cars and trucks in Palmdale.”

“Do you hear the sirens? It sounds to me like every cop within 50 miles is coming here code 3.”

“They’re not coming here, Ron. I think they’re headed to Lancaster.”

“Yeah, that would make sense.”

“You’re Ron? Gary didn’t introduce us.”

“Sorry, Ron, Lance, Lance, Ron.”

“What kind of rifle is that?”

“It’s my .375 H&H magnum. I brought that and my 41. magnum revolver. Brenda has a .223 rifle with a scope and a .38.”

“What kind of ammo do you use in the rifle?”

“Winchester 300 grain, the failsafe stuff, it’s hollow point.”

o

*An only child alone and wild
A cabinet maker’s son
His hands were meant for different work
And his heart was known to none
He left his home and went his lone and solitary way
And he gave to me a gift*

I know I never can repay

*A quiet man of music
Denied a simpler fate
He tried to be a soldier once
But his music wouldn't wait
He earned his love thru' discipline
A thundering velvet hand
His gentle means of sculpting souls
Took me years to understand*

*The leader of the band
Is tired and his eyes are growing old
But his blood runs thru' my instrument
And his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
I'm just a living legacy
To the leader of the band*

*My brother's lives were different
For they heard another call
One went to Chicago and the other to St. Paul
And I'm in Colorado
When I'm not in some hotel
Living out this life I've chose
And come to know so well*

*I thank you for the music
And your stories of the road
I thank you for the freedom
When it came my time to go
I thank you for the kindness
And the times when you got tough
And papa I don't think I said
"I love you" near enough*

*The leader of the band
Is tired and his eyes are growing old
But his blood runs thru' my instrument
And his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
I'm just a living legacy
To the leader of the band
I am the living legacy
To the leader of the band*

- Originally written and performed by Dan Fogelberg (born Daniel Grayling Fogelberg on 8/13/51 in Peoria Illinois)
- The song was written as a tribute to Dan's father Lawrence (Larry) Fogelberg, who started as the director of a military battalion band in Detroit, and who left the military and went to Peoria Illinois, where he was a high school band director for the next 31 years.
- When Dan dropped out of college to pursue music full time, his father gave grudging permission, with the proviso that should things not work out Dan would return to school.
- Thus, the line in the song "I thank you for the freedom, when it came my time to go".
- The song went to #9 on the top 40 charts, and hit #1 on the adult contemporary charts in 1981
- A popular parent dance at weddings

Now you know what I was doing on the day I posted chapter 21 to the board, surviving.

o

Judge Richard L. Bohanon was in his office, a block away from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, when a truck bomb exploded on April 19, 1995, killing 168 people. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was in New York on a temporary assignment in an office near the World Trade Center towers.

"Somehow, I was spared twice," Bohanon told The Oklahoman. "I was put in peril, but I was never harmed."

Bohanon, 71, said that even now, he struggles with his emotions when he considers the enormity of the two events.

Military and counter-insurgency experts are calling for a new set of ethics for the US armed forces, a report says.

The Sunday Times of London said the experts allege the current "creed" for the US military encourages violence over rational thought and that with the heated situation in the Middle East, a more constructive "ethos" would be more appropriate.

The "Warrior Ethos" now used in training has a US Marine say in part, "I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat."

The future crises that relate to Iraq and Afghanistan "will be a struggle for hearts and minds," retired Marine Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, said. "We're in a different environment now and that requires different techniques"

Newbold is a former Pentagon director of operations.

During the Vietnam War, US troops clung to the “Soldier’s Creed,” which focused on a soldier’s duty to avoid disgracing the uniform or the country in any way, the Times said, a concept that experts like Newfold believe should be infused again into the US military.

“A strategic corporal can have a lot more impact on the course of the war than a general, so it’s critical that soldiers and Marines appreciate the consequences of their actions,” Newbold told the newspaper. “The old Soldier’s Creed came down to ‘doing the right thing.’ I like that.”

It takes a tsunami of optimism to think that an armistice, let alone peace, will flow over the Middle East any time soon. There are 21 Arab countries in the area but none can underwrite a guarantee of an end to the war against Israel by Hamas, Hezbollah or any other identifiable Arab terrorist group. As for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, his Fatah TV station encourages suicide attacks against what they call Jewish “monkeys and pigs.”

And while that oh so moderate spokesman for peace in the Middle East, Mahmoud Abbas, is busy glad-handing and sweet-talking his willing audiences, a sermon by a prominent sheik, Ismail al-Radouan, broadcast on Mr. Abbas’ Palestinian Authority television begins like this: “When the shahid [martyr] meets his maker, all his sins are forgiven from the first gush of blood. He is exempted from the torments of the grave; he sees his place in paradise, he is shielded from the great shock and marries 72 dark-eyed virgins.” Hard to compete with such an offer.

o

“I don’t believe any elephants escaped from the zoo, Ron.”

“If any bad guys show up, I’ll shoot the cars and blow up their engines.”

“I think you might be able to do that. Gary, how long do you want to hang out here?”

“I don’t know, I’m getting cold. Why don’t you go home and call the Sheriff’s Department in Palmdale, Amy is working dispatch?”

“Ok, that shouldn’t take long. You cover the front and I’ll find out what is going on.”

“Ask Sharon for the number.”

“I already have it, Gary.”

I’m sure hoped he didn’t dial 911, I didn’t know for sure that that would get him Amy. Lance was gone about 5 minutes and came back smiling and had his rifle slung. I took that to mean that this fiasco was over. Ron pulled his car forward and I moved our car back to the house. I was sure Sharon had coffee on and invited everyone to our house

for a cup. Sitting at the table, we got to visiting about the kinds of disease that a person could pick up when they travel. I don't go anywhere but the subject was interesting.

African sleeping sickness (African trypanosomiasis)
AIDS/HIV
Altitude illness
Amebiasis
BSE (mad cow disease) and nvCJD
Campylobacter infections
Chagas' disease (American trypanosomiasis)
Chicken pox
Chikungunya fever
Cholera
Coccidioidomycosis
Cryptosporidiosis (Cryptosporidium infection)
Dengue fever
Diarrhea
Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis
E. Coli
Encephalitis
Filariasis
Giardiasis (Giardia infection)
Hantavirus
Head lice
Hepatitis
Histoplasmosis
Influenza
Legionellosis
Leishmaniasis (Leishmania infection)
Leptospirosis
Lyme disease
Malaria
Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
Meningitis
Norovirus infection (Norwalk-like virus infection)
Onchocerciasis (river blindness)
Plague
Poliomyelitis
Rabies
Rickettsial infections
Rota virus
Salmonellosis (Salmonella infection)
SARS
Scabies
Schistosomiasis
STDs

Shingellosis (Shingella infection)
Smallpox
Streptococcus pneumoniae (Pneumococcal) disease
TB
Typhoid fever
Typhus fevers
Vibrio parahaemolyticus
Viral hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Lassa, Marburg, Rift Valley)
West Nile virus
Yellow fever

Believe them when they tell you not to drink the water! Many of those diseases are associated with Africa. Need I point out that we get visitors from Africa? Let me repeat the advice, keep several gallons of Clorox or some brand of liquid bleach on hand. What are you going to do if the water goes bad or more likely gets cut off? You can't drink the water from your swimming pool because it's full of chemicals. If you don't live in Kalifornia, maybe a Berkey filter is in order, they're illegal here.

"Hey Amy, did they get them all?"

"I don't really know, they're doing a head count of the ones they rounded up, Dad. From what I heard they got most of them. Some may have headed out so they won't know for a while."

"What about the fence? Is that still down?"

"They just shorted it out, it's being repaired. Right now they have about 5-600 law enforcement officers making a sweep trying to find stragglers. There must be cops from 20 jurisdictions, CHP, LA and Kern County Deputies and a few from San Bernardino. The prison called in all three shifts of correctional officers but none of the level I prisoners escaped so all they're dealing with level IV offenders. The Lieutenant said patrols in Lancaster and Palmdale would be increased until everyone was accounted for."

"Do we need to keep the tract entrance blocked off and post a guard?"

"I wouldn't, the patrol officers might misunderstand and one of you would end up getting shot."

"What about Johnny Jones, is he still in Palmdale?"

"No, he made Lieutenant and moved to LA with his new wife."

"We were shorthanded and didn't have enough people to protect the tract; is there anything we can do about that?"

The New Crusades – Chapter 10

“I’m not sure; most of the inmates looking for trouble were rounded up. The Lieutenant and Captain think the rest are on the run. I’ll call you from work tomorrow and let you know what the final figures are, as soon as they’re available.”

“I’d, er we’d, be grateful Amy. It will give us one less thing to be concerned about. Any word on any more terrorist strikes?”

“Nothing you don’t know already, overall the country is at orange with select areas at red. I heard an unconfirmed rumor that Arnold may activate the State Defense Force, but that’s not a very large organization, under 1,000. We don’t get any information on military preparations, although Edwards is locked down and Plant 42 brought in additional guards.”

“You mom worked there for a while, that’s a civilian guard force at Plant 42 isn’t it?”

“Yes. You’ve noticed how many of the entrances have been shut down over the past 3 years and we heard that it’s getting even tighter.”

“Any news on the people responsible for the bombings?”

That’s being handled by the FBI Dad; we’ll be the last to hear. I’ve got to get to bed; I’m pulling a double shift tomorrow. Could I get a sleeping pill from you?”

“I have Benadryl and Xanax, neither of which is a sleeping pill. Help yourself; they’re on the shelf in the office.”

o

“Dad, we have the preliminary count: none of the level I inmates broke out. 3,500 of the level IV inmates broke out and so far they captured about 3,200. In addition 77 of them were killed and another 113 weren’t, leaving about 110 unaccounted for. The security fence has been repaired and the prison is running about 1½ shifts ATM. The Captain suggested the missing men are avoiding contact with anyone.”

“Any Muslims in the bunch?”

“Strange you should ask, most of them were either MS-13 or Muslims convicted of serious crimes.”

That figured, the level I inmates were housed outside of the fence and were mostly short timers waiting to be released back into the community. The missing inmates could be anywhere from Nevada, Arizona or even Mexico. I’d personally put my money on Glendale and Burbank, they could hide and they’d go unnoticed for years.

“Anything else?”

“There was an armory break in but we don’t know if it’s related. They got weapons, but very little ammo. Sorry, I have to go.”

Could it be that these Hispanic and Arab prisoners have joined together in a concerted action? If they had, we’d first learn about it when they did something more public, like rob a bank or hit a firearms distributor. Between the excitement of the day before, the possibility of a gang arming itself for God knows what and the general situation in southern Kalifornia, several of us would be sleeping very light tonight, assuming we could get to sleep.

I had a scanner tuned to the police bands in the AV and spent most of the day after the break monitoring the police calls. It’s much easier to get the frequencies when your youngest daughter is a Sheriff’s Dispatcher. She spent a few minutes programming the scanner for me. In situations like this, I hadn’t experience many, paranoia was very easy to come by.

If MS-13, a national organization involved in among other things, the drug trade and the Muslim extremists joined together, we could be out numbered, in terms of sheer fire-power if nothing else. I spent at least 2 hours patching up minor but repairable breaches in our ADT security system and revived our security codes with everyone at the house. We had 2 codes, the last 4 digits of both Sharon’s my home phone numbers the day we graduated from high school. There was only one minor difference in the numbers and as long as they kept the phones up we could summon aid by the time the smoke cleared.

Alarms systems are very popular in Palmdale, Lance, Ron and I each had one with ours being the most extensive. We even had a tamper switch on the outside phone box and only lacked a carbon monoxide detector. Sharon made the call and they’d come tomorrow and upgrade the system with the new detector. With a home security system you can create away zones and home zones. The difference in our case involved which internal door were allowed to be open or had to remain closed. If we hadn’t had pets, we’d even have included motion detectors.

◦

The upside to having 3 dogs was that anyone who walked by on the sidewalk caused all 3 dogs to bark to the point you had to threaten them to get them to shut up.

“Ron, what do you think, can we build a shelter under the patio?”

“Gar, it would be easier to remove a section of the slab and start over. If you’re asking I think I’d take out the slab next to your kitchen sliding door and make that our shelter.”

“How would you go about that?”

“Have them jackhammer out that section of slab, install walls and cover it back over. It looks like you have about 1,000ft² sheltered. You’ll have to dig around those 4 support posts, but any good contractor could handle that.”

“Are you going to do something similar?”

“Can’t. We have that big pool in our back yard and I doubt there’s enough free space to put in a shelter.”

“Have you thought about that small shelter Shelter4U sells?”

“Who?”

“It’s an outfit in Texas, Ron. The shelter is preassembled and you have space for a hole large enough to hold it. IIRC, they keep them on hand and if you ordered one, it should be here by the time you got the hole dug.”

“I’ll have to check with the boss. Question, are you talking a bomb shelter or storm shelter?”

“It’s a small bomb shelter, but that’s the difference, it much cheaper than a safe room. The shelter you suggested I build would be small, we’d be packed in there like sardines. To make it a true bomb shelter, I’d need an air filtration system, blast valve and blast cover. I’m not sure we have the money.”

“I know what you mean. Can’t you come up with some kind of song and dance to get that trust fund of yours to buy it?”

“I don’t know, they already put out 12 grand for the standby generator. Did the prison break make national news?”

“It even made the UK Guardian and the London Times.”

“I guess I could get contractor out here to give us an estimate. The most the bank can say is no. Say, on another subject, when are you going to buy some military style rifles. You have enough, but they’re all hunting rifles.”

“What are you suggesting?”

“Unload a couple of those hunting rifles and get an M1A and maybe a Mini-14.”

“Handguns too?”

“What you have is just fine provided you have enough ammo.”

“Where did you get the high capacity magazines?”

“I had them shipped to Arkansas and forwarded. You could have the shipped to Robert and he could forward them to you.”

“What model did you buy?”

“The Loaded with the medium weight match barrel and synthetic stock.”

“Where’d you get it?”

“From Sandy. Santa Fe is expensive but at least he had them in stock.”

“Lyn gets the rent check in a week or so, maybe I’ll look into it. Are you thinking more attacks?”

“Of the nuclear variety? I doubt it. If I were you, I stock up on Tamiflu, Cipro and Doxy. I’d add a couple of gallons of anti-bacterial Dial, some bleach and some of those N-95 or N-100 masks. I’ll give you the addresses for MedicalCorps.org, Radmeters4U and a couple sources for the South African surplus. I doubt you could get food from Walton under the circumstances, so you’re going to have to buy food at Costco, Sam’s Club and Smart and Final.”

“I’ll have to think about it.”

“Ok. Say, how good of friends are you with those folks at AmeriGas?”

“I know a couple of them, why?”

“Do you think you could talk them into renting me another propane tank?”

“I think it depends on what they have in stock. I can ask. Can you afford to pay for a fill?”

“Everything we discussed depends on whether or not I can charm the Trust out of releasing more money.”

“How are you going to get your wheelchair into the shelter?”

“I won’t, I won’t need it in that small of a space.”

“What’s your situation on drugs?”

“I have a six months’ supply on all but 2 of them. I can substitute aspirin for the Plavix but will need an Rx for the Zoloft. How about you?”

“We have 6 to 9 months of everything.”

“Did you get signed up for Medicare part D?”

“Finally, yes. I took your advice and went with Humana. How’s that work?”

“They take the premiums directly from Medicare. ATM I’m about 4-5 thousand ahead of what the drug would have cost me without the insurance.”

“And, you have what, about 6 months’ supply of food?”

“Give or take. You have more meat with 2 freezers. I wouldn’t mind having a chest type, but it would be my luck to get tainted meat and die of E coli.”

“Did you ever buy Ham radios?”

“I borrowed a walkie talkie from Chris and put in a scanner, but I don’t have a radio.”

“Think you’ll have any luck with the bank?”

“I doubt it, the only disaster they’ve had in the last century was the tornado in ‘68.”

“Gary, phone.”

“Who is it?”

“Matt.”

“Gary...Matt. In view of the situation in the country, the bank has moved several the trust investments. At the moment we have all of the funds in CDs. I heard you had that attack out there and a prison break. I thought I’d better check with you before we commit the money to other long term investments and see if you have any special needs.”

“Matt, they caught all but 100 or so of the escaped inmates. However, we were just talking about some improvements to improve our situation. First, we’ve considered a 1,000ft² shelter. Second, I’m short on some of my drugs and they’re expensive. I was going to get a contractors estimate and call you. My best guess on the shelter is about \$20,000. There’s concrete work and equipment plus an increase in our propane supply.”

“We don’t have much time, Gary. What’s your best guess on everything?”

“I just don’t know, in addition to the shelter maybe another \$10,000.”

“Thirty? Are you sure that’s enough? The primary purpose of the trust is to provide for your health and welfare. What do you have for transportation?”

“An old high mileage Daewoo sedan.”

“People back here are moving to diesels, don’t you think you should too? The trust committee authorized up to fifty thousand. With the accumulated capital gains, that will still leave the trust at the original level of six hundred. I’ll transfer the fifty to your account. We won’t be able to advance anything other than income for at least a year.”

“Ok, thanks, that’s a big relief. Are you having trouble in Iowa too?”

“Not yet, thank God. Did you ever think of moving out of California?”

“Not over 6 times a day.”

“What did he want?”

“You wouldn’t believe me if I told you dear. I’m not dreaming am I?”

“What?”

“They’re transferring 50 to our account. He wants us to use the money for a shelter and a used diesel pickup.”

“Bull. You don’t need to lie, you can tell me.”

“If I’m lying, may I drop dead on the spot.”

“Really?”

“Really.”

“We’re going to need a list of meds that we don’t have a 6 month supply of. I’ll have to find a contractor to break up a portion of the slab and install walls, supports and recover it. I’ll have to contact Sharon Packer and get an ANDAIR AV-150, CO₂ scrubber and two of their horizontal blast doors. After all I’ve written about their shelter in my stories, she’s not likely to believe me. I’ve got to do something for Russ too, considering all he’s done for us. Start making a list beginning with a 25ft³ chest type freezer and whatever it will take to fill it. Figure about thirty total on a shelter and twenty for a vehicle and spare fuel. We’ll replace the kitchen sliding door and windows with walls and use the bedroom sliding glass door. Work on it, I’ve got to get back to Ron and finish our conversation.”

“You look like you’re about to bust a seam, what was that all about?”

“The bank in Iowa called. They have some concerns about our situation here and the trust committee is transferring money to our account so we can provide for my health and welfare, can you believe that?”

“You’re kidding.”

“I’m not sure I believe it myself, partner. But I’m going to spend the money before they change their minds.”

“No chit? You aren’t putting me on?”

“We’ll know tomorrow, Sharon can check the account online. If it’s true, I’ll have to spend the morning on the phone making arrangements.”

o

“Well?”

“It’s there just like he said.”

“Did you work on a list?”

“Yes, the freezer will run either \$650 or \$750.”

“Let me check online to see what’s in stock”

“Well?”

“It figures, the expensive model. I ordered it online for home delivery. We’ll have it on hand when they build the shelter, it will have to be installed before they cover the shelter. I’ll have to call Utah next on the air filter, blast valves and horizontal blast hatches. Could you look in the yellow pages for a contractor?”

“Ok. Use the other line to call Utah.”

“Could I speak to Sharon Packer please? Oh hi, this is Gary Ott in Palmdale, I also go by Tom. Yes I really exist and I want to place an order. I need a 3 bar horizontal blast hatch and an AV-150 air filter system with 3 bar blast valves. No, I’m putting in a concrete shelter about of 1,500ft². We’re knocking out a portion of our slab and replacing it with the shelter, but you’re the only supplier I know of for the ANDAIR systems. No, 4 weeks will be fine, we haven’t found a contractor for the shelter yet and he will have to pull permits. One blast door will be enough, if it gets blocked we tunnel out of the place. We will probably just build bunk beds and use electrical appliances. I’ve already ordered a 25ft³ freezer and have a Onan RS 15000 propane generator and a 7kw manual back-up. Do I get a discount for all the advertising I’ve given you? I didn’t think so but it never hurts to ask. Thanks Sharon, my email is gdott@sbcglobal.net and Russ has it if you forget. Oh, the shelter will be 15’ deep. Thanks.”

“Sharon, the air filter is \$5,200 plus \$550 extra for the heavier valves. The blast hatch is \$2,500 and she needs a 50% deposit, but I think we should just pay the full price. Send her a check for \$8,250. Overnight.”

“That’s a lot of money.”

“I allowed \$10,000, we’re \$1,750 ahead. Did you find a contractor?”

“Yes he’s coming tomorrow to give an estimate.”

o

The contractor would need to totally remove the existing patio. He could do it for \$10,000 if he used block walls at \$30 per lineal ft. and didn’t need to haul the earth and concrete he removed. It wouldn’t be quite the size I imagined, only a total of 1,240 ft² unless we extended it into the lawn further. Still, that should be big enough and bigger would cost more for the excavation. It was only 6 extra feet of excavation, just maybe we could do it. The problem was those darned posts for the roof and cover. They’d be about 7’ inside of the outer wall. Wasn’t my problem, he’d just have to figure it out and still come in at 10 grand. The block would run about 6 grand so he had some fudge room. I had some too, the 10 grand covered the equipment and the freezer and probably the meat. Even if we spent 15 on the shelter, we had 25 left to get a pickup.

The problem, as I saw it, was we could get nickelled and dimed to death and as it was we had to deal with other things like a water tank, sewage storage not to mention the extra 3,000 gallons of propane. Fifty was a lot of money, but it was cutting it close. What if we just dug out the entire back lawn? We had a 30’x50’ lawn or ~1,500 sq feet with no concrete to remove. That would be 160 lineal feet of block at \$30 a foot or ~\$4,800 plus the excavation and the overhead. Say 12 grand altogether plus the 10 grand on the equipment. I was up to a 2 Vicodin moment and the contractor hadn’t even showed up.

All for a safe place we might or might not need. The next day, the contractor showed up. It would be easier not removing the patio slab and I’d get a bigger shelter. He said he could do it for 12 grand, guaranteed. He’d excavate half the lawn, put in half the shelter, cover it and back fill it. Then he’d do the other half, stacking the soil on top of the completed half. He’d also bury the 2 propane tanks and set the things in the shelter, gratis. It would be an extra 3 grand to haul the extra dirt was all. Before I agreed, Ron came around and said the guy need the dirt as fill on another project and I was getting screwed.

“I decided to keep my dirt for extra protection.”

“But I already have the truck lined up.”

“I don’t have 3 grand to pay you to haul it.”

“Oh that, we’ll do it for free.”

“How much does fill dirt sell for?”

“You heard?”

“Little Pitchers.”

“Tell you what, 12 grand even and we haul the dirt no charge. You have a finished shelter and I’ll sod it for you.”

“Deal.”

By shortly after my birthday our back yard was really looking nice and except for the blast door there was no indication that it held any surprises.

o

Sharon bought a used Dodge Ram with 50,000 miles on the odometer. We’d have a car payment for a while but it had the Cummins engine. She also found a used diesel tank and had it filled it with 1,000 gallons of stabilized diesel. She was really into this preparedness thing. I was thinking it was just a matter of time before the jihadists started attacking targets of opportunity. One day I accidentally turned to CNN and Wolf was saying something like, “Can you imagine what would have happened to the country if they attacked a major infrastructure target like Hoover Dam?” Draw another map, why don’t you?

“Hey Gar.”

“What?”

“I was watching CNN and Wolf...”

“Gave the terrorists a target list.”

“I thought you only watched Fox.”

“Got the wrong channel. Is your propane topped off?”

“Yeah why?”

“Can you imagine the effect a suitcase nuke would have if it were exploded inside Hoover Dam?”

“London Bridge would fall down.”

“Yeah, Lake Havasu would be gone in a flash. I know for a fact that Edwards used to get its electricity from Hoover Dam. For all I know, we might too.”

“How did you make out with the contractor?”

“He hauled the dirt and sodded the lawn, no charge.”

“They caught the last of the escaped prisoners from Lancaster prison. I guess we can finally sleep at night.”

“Is your propane topped off too?”

“With buried tanks, we have a 95% fill plus 1,000 gallons of stabilized diesel.”

“How are you on food?”

“We rented a storage locker for Amy’s stuff and put a double row of shelves down the middle of the garage. Plus Sharon filled the freezer in the shelter so I think we have about a 2 year supply of food.”

“Coffee on?”

“Always.”

“See you in five.”

o

“Hey, new floors.”

“Same floors, we just put linoleum down in the entire house.”

“I see, easier to clean up after the animals.”

“If we ever sell the dump, we can just add a layer of carpet. Man would I like to get out of Kalifornia.”

“I don’t know why, you really have the place fixed up nice now.”

“Did you ever get a military rifle?”

“Yep.”

The New Crusades – Chapter 11

“Whadya buy?”

“Loaded M1A.”

“From Sandy?”

“Yep.”

“Did you put a red dot sight on it?”

“Yep.”

“Do you have any high capacity magazines?”

“Nope.”

“Want some?”

“Wouldn’t mind. Where do you get them?”

“Ammoman. You have him ship them to Jennifer and she can ship them to you.”

“Straw man purchase?”

“Nope, you order and pay for them. She takes delivery and reships them. The only law broken is the Kalifornia law against importing high capacity magazines. If you get caught with them, you can claim you’ve owned since before the law was passed.”

“It’s still illegal, isn’t it?”

“Yeah, so? I have an extra 17; I can loan you some until yours come. Or, if you’d rather, I’ll sell them to you for what I paid for them.”

“What kind?”

“They all work the same, how may?”

“Ah, loan me 10 and I buy 10 to replace them.”

“The springs in these are pretty good so you can keep them loaded. I don’t have a spare vest so you’re going to have come up with something to carry them in.”

“So the trust fund put up the money for the shelter?”

“Yep. I think it was the lesser of two evils. If I die, they have to distribute the entire trust. Not only do I have to pay 0.9% of the total trust balance each year for them to manage it, they invest a substantial portion of it in their bank at a reduced interest rate.”

“So they’re doing what they have to do to keep you alive?”

“He called me before I called him, which must say something.”

“Maybe he just wanted to find out if you were ok?”

“Right, a banker calls me just to see if I’m ok.”

o

We began to wonder if the 10 million Muslims in the US were going to bite the hand that fed them or those bombs had been set off by a few extremists. They had to be very careful whatever they did; we had them outnumber 29 to 1. In fact, the Jews in America had them outnumbered 1 to 1. These weren’t Republican Guards, although some may have been. Certainly a few of them were trained terrorists, but so were a bunch of the Jews although they didn’t admit to being terrorists. The thing the Jews had going for them was the fact that the majority of the country was Christian. I’ve never heard the expression Islamo-Christian but I have heard the expression Judeo-Christian.

However, one can look it up: Dr. Richard W. Bulliet spoke about his recent book, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization*, to members of The Columbia University Club at Sofitel Chicago Water Tower.

Bulliet is a professor of history at Columbia University, where he has taught all periods of Middle Eastern history. For 12 years he served as director of the university’s Middle East Institute. In addition to his academic work Bulliet wrote four novels that involve the modern Middle East - where he has traveled often and widely.

After 9/11, several political leaders and academic scholars used the phrase, “clashes of civilization” in the media. Their endorsements established a dichotomy between America’s position and the Muslim world. Based on the factual events of history – from the Renaissance through the 20th century – Bulliet offers a dramatically different counterpoint.

“Whether you’re Muslim or American or Chinese or Indian the problem is if you recognize the ‘clash of civilizations,’ it gets you nowhere good and with no signposts,” Bulliet said. “What I hope and is absolutely necessary is we experience inclusion with Arabs and Muslims in America.”

Although America has pride in its moments of inclusion, one of the current struggles within American society is xenophobia: people who fear and/or hate other people they consider foreign. As long as Anglo-Americans’ prejudices regarding Arabs and Muslims

exist their hostility debilitates American society. While US leaders preach to the world about American values of equality and acceptance, the international community sees the hostility Arabs and Muslims endure in the US and abroad. Whether people are acting upon these prejudices or they are on the receiving end of them, people are struggling with prejudices and against them.

Another example Bulliet gave is the use of the phrase “Judeo-Christian civilization.” Prior to World War II the phrase is hard to find, yet it became so widely used that it is an important moment in American history. The phrase’s connotation is that Judeo-Christian civilization is rooted in Western culture. “The popularization of the phrase is a response to the Holocaust,” Bulliet added.

Although historians cannot point to the person who penned the phrase (German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche may have used it connotatively), the point Bulliet emphasized is that the use and meaning of the phrase after WW II changed the master narrative. In history the master narrative is the record of past events, and only primary historians can change master narratives. Historians understand that history was written by people who lived certain experiences in their lives, and they had expectations of societal futures.

I guess it goes to show that there’s one in every crowd. Correct me if I’m wrong, but Christ was Jewish. Correct me if I’m wrong, but the first part of my Bible is called The Old Testament and it contains the Bible used by Jewish people. The second part of my Bible is called The New Testament and it contains Christ’s teachings. I may have it wrong what with being a Methodist, but I really don’t think so.

The Torah is also known as the Five Books of Moses or the Pentateuch (Greek for “five containers,” which refers to the scroll cases in which books were being kept). Other names include Hamisha Humshei Torah or simply the Humash. A Sefer Torah is a formal written scroll of the five books, written by a Torah scribe under exceptionally strict requirements.

For Jews, the Torah was traditionally accepted as the literal word of God as told to Moses. For many, it is neither exactly history, nor theology, nor legal and ritual guide, but something beyond all three. It is the primary guide to the relationship between God and man, and the whole meaning and purpose of that relationship, a living document that unfolds over generations and millennia.

◦

We didn’t wonder long, the Muslim residents of Glendale seized the town and part of the adjoining community, Burbank. Arnold called up every National Guard and State Defense Force person available and asked the President for help from other states’ Guards. Troops from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Arizona were activated for duty in Kalifornia. I should note that 90% of the Muslim population in the US is Sunni.

Before the troops could even get LA, trouble broke out in Detroit. Dearborn has a huge Muslim population. The President activated the Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio Guard in support of the Michigan National Guard. One day later the unrest spread, this time to New York City. New York activated its National Guard and Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland Guards were called up in support. We were already spread thin what with having so many Reserves and Guards in the Middle East and the Guards were outnumbered.

“Get your crap together, Ron, we’re going to Glendale.”

“What for?”

“Militia duty.”

“What Militia?”

“The 2nd Amendment Militia.”

“For a minute I thought you meant the Palmdale Militia.”

“Nope, they haven’t been around since The Three Amigos Part X.”

“Who is going?”

“Lance, you and me.”

“The hell you say.”

“Be sure to wear your cowboy hat, it won’t be mistaken for a turban.”

“What are you wearing?”

“I’m gonna dress up.”

“Your black hat, huh?”

“Right. Did you get those magazines?”

“Oh dam, I forgot.”

“Get your rifle, about 5 battle packs of ammo and bring my magazines back.”

It might have been hilarious had it not been so pathetic. We took our new used pickup because it had a rifle rack in the back window. You don’t see many of those in Kalifornia. You never see them with 3 M1A rifles in the rack, except perhaps on private proper-

ty and I've honestly never seen that. We had it ok as far as San Fernando, the community, not the valley although the community is in the valley. That's where we hit the first roadblock.

"Coming to help?"

"Thought we might."

"Well. You turn you truck around and head back where you came from and I'll pretend I didn't see the rifles."

"Ok."

We drove until we were out of sight of the roadblock and tried a different approach. The next roadblock was manned by the State Defense Force.

"Hey fellas. Come to help?"

"Yep, where do we report?"

"Are you members of the State Defense Force?"

"Palmdale Militia," Ron answered.

"Is that one of those groups of crazies like the Michigan Militia?"

"No, aren't they defunct?"

"All except for the Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia. Where are the rest?"

"We're it."

"Go back where you came from, you old men will just be in the way."

"Who you calling old, punk?" Ron asked.

"Let's leave; maybe the third time will be a charm."

It wasn't and this time we were called by that disrespectful name, Survivalists.

A survivalist is a person who anticipates a potential disruption in the continuity of local, regional or worldwide society, and takes steps to survive in the resulting unpredictable situation. Some survivalists take an interest in survival in the wilderness or at sea, while others look for opportunities to gain practice and training by assisting in government volunteer organizations. Still others look at historical incidents, either localized or affect-

ing large regions, and put extra effort and funds into preparing themselves with all the tools and information needed to handle repeats of those same events.

The way in which survivalists prepare for some future loss while maintaining access to society is said to differentiate them from other people who endure extreme situations, such as those who live in very remote or isolated locations, commandos and guerrillas, and subsistence farmers.

The specific preparations made by survivalists depend on the nature of the anticipated disruption, some of the most commonly anticipated being:

1. Natural disasters, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, blizzards, and severe thunderstorms.
2. A disaster brought about by the activities of humankind: chemical spills, release of radioactive materials, war.
3. General collapse of civilization, resulting from the unavailability of electricity, fuel, food, water, and other goods and services. For this reason concern over the Y2K computer bug led to a brief widespread interest in survivalism in 1999.
4. Widespread descent into chaos, or some other apocalyptic event.

Many people, who are not “survivalists” in that they are not preparing for any total collapse of society or apocalyptic event, nonetheless make prudent preparations for emergencies. This can include, depending on the location, preparing for earthquakes, floods, power outages, blizzards, avalanches, wildfires, nuclear power plant accidents, hazardous material spills, tornadoes, and hurricanes. These preparations can be as simple as keeping a first aid kit, shovel, and extra clothes in the car, or maintaining a small kit of emergency supplies in the home and car, containing emergency food, water, a space blanket and other essentials, commonly known as a bug-out-bag, go kit, Get Out of Dodge (GOOD) kit, or a 72-Hour kit, named for three days’ worth of supplies.

Some businesses have arisen around providing survivalist supplies, including businesses that sell complete sets of food supplies for specified periods of time.

Official government preparedness training has often been ridiculed or discounted by those in the survivalist movement. This goes in particular for the 1950s/1960s era duck and cover drills. One main tenet of the survivalist movement has been that people should prepare on their own or with like-minded people, not rely on the government to take care of them in emergencies. On the other hand, there is a growing body of thought in favor of community based efforts, widespread involvement in CERTs, and working together with first responders. Many of those in favor of this approach reject the term “survivalist” because they see preparing in conjunction with government agencies, and preparing completely apart from the government, as two separate things; also because they emphasize that they do not anticipate any permanent or long-term breakdown of society which they say survivalists do.

Get this, it's directly from Wiki: Lights Out, an online novel written by David Crawford (aka Halffast) that depicts life after an atmospheric nuclear explosion that causes a worldwide black out via EMP. He most definitely deserves the attention!

"We'd better leave before someone decides to arrest us."

"Yeah, there isn't a place for Patriots in Kalifornia. Ronald, what was that crack about the Palmdale Militia?"

"It seemed like a good idea at the time."

"I thought so too. That's why I formed the Palmdale Militia in *Preparations*."

"Did your buddy and you ever sell many copies of your CD, the one that contained all of your stories?"

"A few. I told him to hang onto the money until he had enough to buy me something I couldn't buy in Kalifornia. I'm still waiting so I guess we didn't sell many."

"Does he have a M1A?"

"Hah, he likes plastic guns. He has a Glock and a Kel-Tec 16."

"Did you check them out?"

"I did. I won't say the Glock is a bad weapon, but I wouldn't have one. That Kel-Tec might be handy to keep in the front of a car, it folds up. Except for barrel, bolt and mechanism the SU-16 is made entirely of high impact reinforced polymer. Personally, I rather have a rifle I can barely pick up."

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The US has 2 borders, Mexico the one in the news, and Canada, the one not in the news. The Canadian border is longer than the Mexican border and it is essentially unguarded. Methinks it would be so easy for those terrorists to have come into the US from Canada. Canada and the US share the longest common border, officially known as the International Boundary, between any two countries that is not militarized or actively patrolled. The terrestrial boundary (including small portions of maritime boundaries on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Artic coasts as well as the Great Lakes) is 8,891 kilometers (5,522 mi) long, including 2,477 kilometers (1,539 mi) shared with Alaska. The border roughly follows the 49th parallel. The actual number of US and Canadian border security personnel is not known but estimated to be less than 1,000 in total, largely clustered near major crossing points. In comparison, there are in excess of 7,000 US border security personnel on the Mexico-US border alone.

We also have border disputes with Canada:

The Beaufort Sea

This dispute is a little more serious. Canada and the US disagree over who has sovereignty over a chunk of this northern sea between Yukon and Alaska. It's what's under the water that has piqued the interest of both sides: oil and gas. The US has expressed its desire to increase oil and gas exploration along Alaska's northeast coast.

Dixon Entrance

The Dixon Entrance is a strait between B.C. and Alaska that's about 80 kilometers long and wide. It lies between the Clarence Strait in Alaska to the north, and the Hecate Strait into the Queen Charlotte Islands in B.C. to the south.

The Dixon Entrance is the principal approach to the port of Prince Rupert, B.C.

Strait of Juan de Fuca

This body of water connects Puget Sound to the Pacific Ocean between Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula, Wash. Frequent ferry service between Port Angeles, Washington and Victoria crosses the strait.

One of the most contentious disputes between Canada and the US in recent years has been over the Northwest Passage. The passage connects the Atlantic and the Pacific through the Canadian Arctic.

Canada claimed sovereignty over the water around its northern islands. In 1985, the United States sent an icebreaker through the passage without asking Canadian permission. Washington argued it didn't have to because the route was through international waters.

The route can save cargo ships 4,000 kilometers in a trip between Europe and Asia – if the conditions are good. Global warming may make the passage an attractive route – someday.

There may have been more boundary disputes within Canada than between Canada and its international neighbors.

Quebec and Newfoundland have argued over the Gulf of St. Lawrence – and its potentially rich oil and gas reserves.

Newfoundland and Nova Scotia have done verbal battle over where to draw the line in the water between Cape Breton and Newfoundland. Again, oil and gas rights are at the center of this dispute.

Prince Edward Island and Quebec have squabbled over fishing grounds between PEI and the Magdalene Islands. At issue is a lot of lobster.

And in the Northwest Territories, two native groups are arguing over land. The Akaitcho claim the Dogrib are claiming more of their sacred land.

Yet with all the disputes, one part of the country has learned to live with boundary lines as a fact of daily life. The border between Canada and the US passes right through the heart of Rock Island, Quebec.

The boundary passes right through several buildings, splitting bedrooms, apartments, a library, a factory and even an opera house between Quebec and Vermont.

For the most part the Canadians and the US get along. The majority of Canadians speak English, except for Quebec. I rather suspect that many people in Quebec speak English, as a second language. Their attitude about things in general isn't that different from ours. They enacted the GST and the PST to pay for public health. What it amounts to is an average 15% sales tax on everything.

Canada is one of the world's wealthiest nations with a high per capita income, a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Group of Eight (G8). Canada is a free market economy with slightly more government intervention than the United States, but much less than most European nations. Canada has traditionally had a lower per capita gross domestic product (GDP) than its southern neighbor (whereas wealth has been more equally divided), but higher than the large western European economies. For the past decade, after a period of turbulence, the Canadian economy has been growing rapidly with low unemployment and large government surpluses on the federal level. Today Canada closely resembles the US in its market-oriented economic system, pattern of production, and high living standards. While as of July 2006, Canada's national unemployment rate of 6.4% is among its lowest in 30 years, provincial unemployment rates vary from a low of 3.6% in Alberta to a high of 14.6% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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Earth's temperature could be reaching its highest level in a million years, American scientists said.

Researchers at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies said a further one degree Celsius rise in the global temperature could be critical to the planet, and there was already a threat of extreme weather resulting from El Niño. The scientists said that in the 30 years to the end of 2005, temperatures increased at the rate of 0.2°C per decade, a rate they described as "remarkably rapid".

Comparison of the current global temperature with estimates of historical temperatures – based on a study of ocean sediment – showed the current temperature was now within 1°C of the maximum temperature of the past million years.

Dr. James Hansen, who led the study, said further global warming of just 1°C could lead to big changes to the planet.

“If warming is kept less than that, effects of global warming may be relatively manageable,” he said.

“But if further global warming reaches two or three degrees Celsius, we will likely see changes that make Earth a different planet [to] the one we know.

“The last time it was that warm was in the middle Pliocene, about 3m years ago, when sea level was estimated to have been about 25 meters (80 feet) higher than today.”

The study showed that global warming was greatest at high latitudes in the northern hemisphere. The study attributed this to the effect of snow and ice melting, leaving dark areas that absorb more sunlight.

Warming was lower over sea than on land, but the research team said the temperature of the western Pacific had been increasing, and was becoming much warmer than the eastern Pacific. This increased difference could boost the likelihood of strong El Niño weather conditions such as those seen in 1983 and 1998, when many countries around the world experienced devastating floods and tornadoes.

Dr. Hansen said that the increasing temperature could lead to the extinction of some species, which would find it increasingly difficult to find viable habitats.

Plants and animals have been observed migrating towards the poles to find areas where the temperature better suits them. However, Dr. Hansen said that they were not keeping up with the pace at which temperature zones are moving – this movement had reached 25 miles per decade between 1975 and 2005.

He said: “Rapid movement of climatic zones is going to be another stress on wildlife.

“It adds to the stress of habitat loss due to human developments. If we do not slow down the rate of global warming, many species are likely to become extinct.

“In effect we are pushing them off the planet.”

The environment group Earthwatch today warned that a change in climate could make the difference between survival and extinction for endangered lemurs in Madagascar.

A 20-year study of the Milne-Edward’s sifakas lemur found that during dry spells, older females were unable to chew enough leaves to provide their infants with milk. Lemurs are able to give birth up to five times during the final decade of their lives, but as they get older their teeth become worn, making it harder for them to eat. If dry periods become more common, they will struggle to feed their young, and the numbers of animals who make it to adulthood will fall.

The New Crusades – Chapter 12

While I'd like to turn the story of the Muslim unrest into a couple of chapters, it didn't go down that way. The state Guard units encircled the Muslims and then tightened the circle, ever so slowly. City services were shut down including water, sewer, sanitation and electrical and gas utilities. A few rather radical groups opened fire on the Guard, for all the good that did. They'd never faced an Abrams tank loaded with canister. Face on, very little will penetrate an Abrams tank, certainly not the few RPGs they had.

There were hold outs, of course, but mothers with children didn't hold out that long and were the first to break the lines. Surprisingly, once the Muslim women were out of the enclave, they weren't treated much different from anyone else. Their children and they were fed; they were asked a few cursory questions and allowed to leave. The public wasn't quite as forgiving as the Guard.

A bus load of them were unloaded in Palmdale, to be housed in the Palmdale High School Gym. I, for one, didn't like that; the Gym was only 3 miles away. But, that being said, as long as they stayed away from Moon Shadows, tract 6, we weren't going to have any problems. Live and let live, but wait, the movie title was *Live and Let Die*, wasn't it? Moore, Roger Moore.

I want to go back to earlier and mention the topic of 'sheltering in place'. The key component to doing that is to keep the radioactive particles out of your home. It won't prevent all of the radiation from penetrating the walls of your home, but it beats sitting in a lawn chair watching the fallout rain down. Fallout is the residual radiation hazard from a nuclear explosion, so named because it "falls out" of the atmosphere into which it is spread during the explosion. It commonly refers to the radioactive dust created when a nuclear weapon explodes. This radioactive dust, consisting of hot particles, is a kind of radioactive contamination. It can lead to contamination of the food chain.

That dust mostly gives off beta radiation as it decays. Gamma rays are a form of ionizing radiation; they are more penetrating than either alpha or beta radiation (neither of which is electromagnetic radiation), but less ionizing. For instance, a gamma ray will pass through 1 cm of aluminum, while an alpha particle will be stopped by even a single sheet of paper.

Beta radiation penetrates matter to varying distances. The higher the energy of the beta particle, the deeper the penetration into matter. Depending on the maximum beta energy, the penetration depth may be an external radiation hazard, specifically to the skin and eyes. The degree of hazard depends on the beta energy of the isotope and should be evaluated in every case. Generally, beta emitters whose energies are less than 0.2 MeV, such as tritium (^3H), ^{35}S and ^{14}C , are easily absorbed in the outer (dead) layer of skin and are not considered to be external radiation hazards.

Because gamma/x-ray radiation has no charge and no mass, it has a very high penetrating ability. Attenuation refers to the reduction in intensity of gamma and X-Ray radiation. The higher the energy of the photon, the more material will be needed to attenuate a particular photon intensity. Of particular note with regard to radiation safety is that shielding reduces the intensity of electromagnetic radiation, but statistically it never reaches zero. This is in contrast to alpha and beta particles which, because of their finite path length, can be completely shielded. I thought it might become important in the near future when WW III got hot.

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United States-led counterterrorism efforts have seriously damaged the leadership of al Qaeda and disrupted its operations; however, we judge that al Qaeda will continue to pose the greatest threat to the Homeland and US interests abroad by a single terrorist organization. We also assess that the global jihadist movement – which includes al-Qaeda, affiliated and independent terrorist groups, and emerging networks and cells – is spreading and adapting to counterterrorism efforts.

- Although we cannot measure the extent of the spread with precision, a large body of all-source reporting indicates that activists identifying themselves as jihadists, although a small percentage of Muslims, are increasing in both number and geographic dispersion.
- If this trend continues, threats to US interests at home and abroad will become more diverse, leading to increasing attacks worldwide.
- Greater pluralism and more responsive political systems in Muslim majority nations would alleviate some of the grievances jihadists exploit. Over time, such progress, together with sustained, multifaceted programs targeting the vulnerabilities of the jihadist movement and continued pressure on al Qaeda, could erode support for the jihadists.

We assess that the global jihadist movement is decentralized, lacks a coherent global strategy, and is becoming more diffuse. New jihadist networks and cells, with anti-American agendas, are increasingly likely to emerge. The confluence of shared purpose and dispersed actors will make it harder to find and undermine jihadist groups.

- We assess that the operational threat from self-radicalized cells will grow in importance to US counterterrorism efforts, particularly abroad but also in the Homeland.
- The jihadists regard Europe as an important venue for attacking Western interests. Extremist networks inside the extensive Muslim diasporas in Europe facilitate recruitment and staging for urban attacks, as illustrated by the 2004 Madrid and 2005 London bombings.

We assess that the Iraq jihad is shaping a new generation of terrorist leaders and operatives; perceived jihadist success there would inspire more fighters to continue the struggle elsewhere.

- The Iraq conflict has become the “cause celebre” for jihadists, breeding a deep resentment of US involvement in the Muslim world and cultivating supporters for the global jihadist movement. Should jihadists leaving Iraq perceive themselves, and be perceived, to have failed, we judge fewer fighters will be inspired to carry on the fight.

We assess that the underlying factors fueling the spread of the movement outweigh its vulnerabilities and are likely to do so for the duration of the timeframe of this Estimate.

- Four underlying factors are fueling the spread of the jihadist movement: (1) Entrenched grievances, such as corruption, injustice, and fear of Western domination, leading to anger, humiliation, and a sense of powerlessness; (2) the Iraq “jihad;” (3) the slow pace of real and sustained economic, social, and political reforms in many Muslim majority nations; and (4) pervasive anti-US sentiment among most Muslims – all of which jihadists exploit.

Concomitant vulnerabilities in the jihadist movement have emerged that, if fully exposed and exploited, could begin to slow the spread of the movement. They include dependence on the continuation of Muslim-related conflicts, the limited appeal of the jihadists’ radical ideology, the emergence of respected voices of moderation, and criticism of the violent tactics employed against mostly Muslim citizens.

- The jihadists’ greatest vulnerability is that their ultimate political solution – an ultra-conservative interpretation of shari’a-based governance spanning the Muslim world – is unpopular with the vast majority of Muslims. Exposing the religious and political strait-jacket that is implied by the jihadists’ propaganda would help to divide them from the audiences they seek to persuade.
- Recent condemnations of violence and extremist religious interpretations by a few notable Muslim clerics signal a trend that could facilitate the growth of a constructive alternative to jihadist ideology: peaceful political activism. This also could lead to the consistent and dynamic participation of broader Muslim communities in rejecting violence, reducing the ability of radicals to capitalize on passive community support. In this way, the Muslim mainstream emerges as the most powerful weapon in the war on terror.
- Countering the spread of the jihadist movement will require coordinated multilateral efforts that go well beyond operations to capture or kill terrorist leaders.

If democratic reform efforts in Muslim majority nations progress over the next five years, political participation probably would drive a wedge between intransigent extremists and groups willing to use the political process to achieve their local objectives. Nonetheless, attendant reforms and potentially destabilizing transitions will create new opportunities for jihadists to exploit.

- The loss of key leaders, particularly Usama Bin Ladin, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and al-Zarqawi, in rapid succession, probably would cause the group to fracture into smaller groups. Although like-minded individuals would endeavor to carry on the mission, the loss of these key leaders would exacerbate strains and disagreements. We assess that the resulting splinter groups would, at least for a time, pose a less serious threat to US interests than does al Qaeda.
- Should al-Zarqawi continue to evade capture and scale back attacks against Muslims, we assess he could broaden his popular appeal and present a global threat.
- The increased role of Iraqis in managing the operations of al Qaeda in Iraq might lead veteran foreign jihadists to focus their efforts on external operations.

Other affiliated Sunni extremist organizations, such as Jemaah Islamiya, Ansar al-Sunnah, and several North African groups, unless countered, are likely to expand their reach and become more capable of multiple and/or mass-casualty attacks outside their traditional areas of operation.

- We assess that such groups pose less of a danger to the Homeland than does al-Qaeda but will pose varying degrees of threat to our allies and to US interests abroad. The focus of their attacks is likely to ebb and flow between local regime targets and regional or global ones.

We judge that most jihadist groups – both well-known and newly formed – will use improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks focused primarily on soft targets to implement their asymmetric warfare strategy, and that they will attempt to conduct sustained terrorist attacks in urban environments. Fighters with experience in Iraq are a potential source of leadership for jihadists pursuing these tactics.

- CBRN capabilities will continue to be sought by jihadist groups.

While Iran, and to a lesser extent Syria, remain the most active state sponsors of terrorism, many other states will be unable to prevent territory or resources from being exploited by terrorists.

Anti-US and anti-globalization sentiment is on the rise and fueling other radical ideologies. This could prompt some leftist, nationalist, or separatist groups to adopt terrorist methods to attack US interests. The radicalization process is occurring more quickly, more widely, and more anonymously in the Internet age, raising the likelihood of surprise attacks by unknown groups whose members and supporters may be difficult to pinpoint.

- We judge that groups of all stripes will increasingly use the Internet to communicate, propagandize, recruit, train, and obtain logistical and financial support.

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Since the anthrax letter attacks in 2001, concern has grown over legitimate scientific work that could be misused to threaten public health and national security. This is particularly important since the US has dramatically increased its biodefense research budget since 2001. To increase awareness of the pitfalls of research that could potentially be used for malevolent purposes the Federation of American Scientists launched an internet based tool to illustrate the experience of scientists who have dealt with “dual use” scientific research.

“Scientists don’t generally think about terrorists using their work to attack the nation, but as technology and the pace of research advances it will become easier for those with nefarious intent to co-opt legitimate science,” said Michael Stebbins, FAS Director of Biology Policy. “Raising awareness of this ugly truth is essential for the security of the nation.”

This online learning tool illustrates the implications of dual use biology research through case studies of three different researchers who have done dual use research and provides a historical background on bioterrorism, bioweapons and the current laws, regulations and treaties that apply to biodefense research. Biology graduate students and post-docs, technicians, and their principal investigators will be able to access the modules, as will undergraduate biology students and even advanced high school biology students.

The goal is to fill a gap in the current education curricula. The United States has invested heavily in biodefense research, but neglected to train scientists to recognize the full implications of their work. Molecular biological research has made extraordinary advances. Unfortunately these technological milestones have increased the risk that research could be used by those with malicious intent.

It is important that biologists increase their awareness of biosecurity issues and learn to assess their research in terms of modern security concerns. The case studies presented in the modules clearly define the issues associated with “dual use” research and security in the research lab.

“They are being provided free to anyone who wishes to educate themselves about the implications of dual use research and the Federation of American Scientists will distribute dual use education materials from any other group through our Biosecurity Resource page. Raising awareness of the implications of “dual use” research is an important first step in engaging the academic research community in biosecurity,” said Stebbins.

Scientists must lead the effort to manage dual use research as they are best qualified to identify opportunities for misuse. The research community has a moral obligation to prevent the misapplication of their technologies or findings. The risk of not becoming engaged may be governmental actions that impose blanket restrictions and cumber-

some rules for scientists that have little impact on real security and could slow legitimate research. In the future, FAS will develop more modules and dramatically expand the education materials available to train scientists to be aware of the consequences of “dual use” research.

The Case Studies in Dual Use Biological Research online learning modules are funded through a grant by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

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That earlier bit was the declassified portion of whatever report everyone was fighting over. The difference between a Republican and a Democrat had narrowed to a point where I didn't want to bother to vote. The only reason I had voted in 2006 was because California has those Propositions on the ballot, I had to vote against them. The non-smokers wanted the smokers to pay for everything. Plus there was the Proposition to tax the oil development. The easiest thing to do was to simply vote no on everything.

Prop 83 Prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of any school or park and requires lifetime Global Positioning System monitoring of felony registered sex offenders. Prop 84 Funds projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and water conservation efforts. Prop 85 amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent or legal guardian, except in medical emergency or with parental waiver. Prop 86 imposes additional 13 cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$2.60 per pack), and indirectly increases tax on other tobacco products. Prop 87 was funded by tax of 1.5% to 6% (depending on oil price per barrel) on producers of oil extracted in California. Prohibits producers from passing tax to consumers. Prop 88 provides additional public school funding for kindergarten through grade 12. Prop 89 Provides that candidates for state elective office meeting certain eligibility requirements, including collection of a specified number of \$5.00 contributions from voters, may voluntarily receive public campaign funding from Fair Political Practices Commission, in amounts varying by elective office and election type.

The one I liked was Prop 90 which bars state and local governments from condemning or damaging private property to promote other private projects or uses. Fortunately, they had a quick reference pullout. I could decide what I liked and what I didn't and circle a vote.

The largest group of self-described religious participants in the United States are Catholics, followed by Baptists. The third largest religious preference is no religion. The First Amendment guarantees right to freedom. It also ensures that the government does not act in the interest or disinterest of religion. Some scholars have argued that this “free market” of ideas forces American pastors to cut overhead and market faith in new and more effective ways. Culture ‘wars’ often have roots in religious differences, but major

incidents of religious violence are rare. Politicians frequently discuss their religion when campaigning and many churches and religious figures are highly politically active.

However, to keep their status as tax-exempt organizations they must not officially endorse a candidate. Evangelical Christians exert a strong influence on political debate in the United States. There are Christians in both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, but evangelical Christians tend to support the Republican Party whereas more secular voters support the Democratic Party.

Every previous President has fit into the category of White Anglo-Saxon Protestant except for John F. Kennedy. However, some Presidents may have had nominal affiliation with Protestant, several early holders of the office being Deists, with at least four Unitarians and a single Roman Catholic. Only three presidential candidates for major parties have been Catholics, all for the Democratic Party. A contributing factor to Alfred E. Smith's defeat in the Presidential election of 1928 was his Roman Catholic faith. In the 1960 election, John F. Kennedy, faced accusations that as a Catholic president he would do as Pope John XXIII would tell him to do, a charge that Kennedy managed to subdue considerably.

In 2004, John Kerry, a Catholic, was the Democratic Party's candidate for the Presidency. There was discussion about whether Kerry's beliefs as a Catholic would be relevant to the national debate on abortion but there was no implication that his being a Catholic *per se* made him an undesirable candidate. There has never been a Jewish President or Vice-President. The only Jewish candidate for either of those offices was Joe Lieberman in the Gore-Lieberman campaign of 2000, during which Lieberman's Orthodox Judaic faith was not a salient issue. Jews constitute just 1.4% of the population.

Protestant candidates are not subjected to the same scrutiny as non-Protestants regarding their religious faith, though some critics express a concern that some Protestant candidates also would put their religious beliefs ahead of the interests of the nation. During the early part of the 21st century, more and more of the Protestant denominations in America (most specifically in the American South) have openly campaigned to yield more political power than its other counterparts openly campaigning for political reform to favor their causes. In the 2004 Presidential election, George W. Bush a Methodist, earned a slim but clear victory over John Kerry off the backbone of Bush supporters calling for a "moral values" based on religious belief (such as a ban on same sex marriage and abortion) than Kerry's call to strengthen national security policies and economic growth. So far many feel that neither attempts to enact those moral value policies have been strongly enforced.

Total Christian – 88.3%
Roman Catholic 26.8%
Other Christian
-Baptist 61.4%
-Methodist 8.3%
-Christian – no denomination 4.7%

- Lutheran 5.3%
- Presbyterian 2.0%
- Protestant – no denomination 10%
- Pentecostal/Charismatic 1.9%
- Episcopalian/Angelican 1.8%
- Mormon/Latter Day Saints 1.5%
- Churches of Christ 1%
- Congregational/United Church of Christ 0.3%
- Jehovah's Witnesses 0.8%
- Assemblies of God 0.4%
- Evangelical 0.1%
- Church of God 0.3%
- Seventh Day Adventist 0.4%
- Eastern Orthodox 0.3%
- Other Christian 1.6%
- Total other religions
- Jewish 1.8%
- Non-denominational 0.1%
- Muslim 0.3%
- Buddhist 0.2%
- Hindu 0.1%
- Unitarian Universalist 0.3%
- Others 0.6%
- No Religion/Atheist/Agnostic unknown

The American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) 2001 was based on a random digit-dialed telephone survey of 50,281 American residential households in the continental USA (48 states). Respondents were asked to describe themselves in terms of religion with an open-ended question. Interviewers did not prompt or offer a suggested list of potential answers. The primary question of the interview was: What is your religion, if any? The religion of the spouse/partner was also asked. If the initial answer was 'Protestant' or 'Christian' further questions were asked to probe which particular denomination.

Key findings: (Not adjusted for increase in refusals to reply)

- the proportion of the population that can be classified as Christian has declined from 86% in 1990 to 77% in 2001;
- although the number of adults who classify themselves in non-Christian religious groups has increased from about 5.8 million to about 7.7 million, the proportion of non-Christians has increased only by a very small amount - from 3.3 % to about 3.7 %;
- the greatest increase in absolute as well as in percentage terms has been among those adults who do not subscribe to any religious identification; their number has more

than doubled from 14.3 million in 1990 to 29.4 million in 2001; their proportion has grown from just 8% of the total in 1990 to over 14% in 2001;

- there has also been a substantial increase in the number of adults who refused to reply to the question about their religious preference, from about four million or 2% in 1990 to more than eleven million or over 5% in 2001.

Other key findings:

- Nearly 20% of adults who describe themselves as atheist or agnostic also report that either they themselves or someone else in their household is a member of a church, temple, synagogue, mosque or some other religious institution.

- On the other hand, nearly 40% of respondents who identified with a religion indicated that neither they themselves nor anyone else in their household belongs to a church or some other similar institution.

- Despite the growing diversity nationally, some religious groups clearly occupy a dominant demographic position in particular states. For instance, Catholics are the majority of the population in Massachusetts and Rhode Island as are Mormons in Utah and Baptists in Mississippi. Catholics comprise over 40% of Vermont, New Mexico, New York and New Jersey, while Baptists are over 40% in a number of southern states such as South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama and Georgia.

- Historical traces of the Bible belt in the South and an irreligious West are still evident. Those with “no religion” constitute the largest group in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming. In contrast, the percentage of adults who adhere to “no religion” is below 10% in North and South Dakota, the Carolinas, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

- Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and those with no religion continue to have a greater preference for the Democratic Party over the Republican - much as they did in 1990. Evangelical or Born Again Christians and Mormons are the most apt to identify as Republicans. Buddhists and those with no religion are most likely to be political independents. In keeping with their theology, Jehovah’s Witnesses disavow political involvement.

- As in 1990 so too in the 2001 study, the Buddhist and Muslim population appears to have the highest proportion of young adults under age thirty, and the lowest percentage of females. A number of the major Christian groups have aged since 1990, most notably the Catholics, Methodists, and Lutherans. Congregationalist/United Church of Christ and Presbyterian adherents show an older age structure with three times as many over age 65 as under age 35. Baptists also have fewer young adults than they had in 1990. Among Jews the ratio of the over-65 to those under-thirty has shifted from nearly even in 1990 to about 2:1 in the current study. It should be noted, again, that this survey has focused only upon adult adherents. The observations about age structure do not include the children who may be present in the household of adult adherents.

- ARIS2001 found that of all households that contained either a married or domestic partner couple, 22% reported a mixture of religious identification amongst the couple. At the low end there are the Mormon adults who are found in mixed religion families at 12% and such other groups as Baptists, those adhering to the Churches of Christ, Assemblies of God, the Evangelicals and those adhering to the Church of God (all at about 18%). At the high end we find the Episcopalians at 42% and Buddhists at 39% living in mixed religion families. In all, about 28 million American married or otherwise “coupled” adults live in a mixed religion household.

- Those who identify with one or another of the main religious groups are considerably more likely to be married than those who have no religion. Particularly the “no religion” group was far more likely to be either single, never married or single, living with a partner than any other group. Indeed, the “no religion” group shows the lowest incidence of marriage (just 19%) of all twenty-two groups. In sharp contrast, those identifying with the Assemblies of God or Evangelical/Born Again Christians show the highest proportions married, 73% and 74% respectively. The percent currently divorced or separated varies considerably less, from a low of six percent (Jehovah’s Witnesses) to a high of fourteen percent (Pentecostals).

- The top three “gainers” in America’s vast religious market place appear to be Evangelical Christians, those describing themselves as Non-Denominational Christians and those who profess no religion. Looking at patterns of religious change from this perspective, the evidence points as much to the rejection of faith as to the seeking of faith among American adults. Indeed, among those who previously had no religion, just 5% report current identification with one or another of the major religions.

- Women are more likely than men to describe their outlook as “religious.” Older Americans are more likely than younger to describe their outlook as “religious.” Black Americans are least likely to describe themselves as secular, Asian Americans are most likely to do so.

- 68% of those identifying themselves as Lutheran report church membership, while only 45% of those who describe themselves as Protestant (without a specific denominational identification) report church membership. Nearly 68% of those identifying with the Assemblies of God report church membership. Church membership is reported by 59% of Catholic adults. About 53% of adults who identify their religion as Jewish or Judaism report temple or synagogue membership. Among those calling themselves Muslim or Islamic, 62% report membership in a mosque.

I’m sure that there was a time in America when the figures were much higher. Fifty years ago church attendance was much higher, especially in the rural areas.

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Generally, all errors are mine, although if I run into someone who says something I don’t agree with, I’ll let you know. For those who have followed my stories, this is number 47.

This story builds on information published in mid-2005 on the subject of terrorists having succeeded in bringing at least 7 nuclear weapons into the US via the Mexican border. The people in the stories are usually real people and sometimes the names are changed and sometimes not.

Headnote: The people are real and I bought The Package from KI4U and the ammo yesterday. I bought the Loaded M1A rifle last week. I read about 8 papers, 3 wire services and several other locations every day. Most of the stories are a mixture of fact and fiction - it's up to you to figure out which is which.